

# Vision

THE NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY  
CATALOG 2001 -2002

## Foreword

This catalog is designed for the limited purpose of providing information to the students of The New England College of Optometry during their course of study.

The College makes every effort to be certain that the catalog is substantively true and correct in content and policy as of the date of publication. It should not, however, be construed as the basis of an offer or contract between the College and any present or prospective student. While to the College's knowledge, the catalog contains no erroneous, deceptive, or misleading statements or omissions, the College retains the right to amend, add or delete any information in the catalog, including any course of study, program or regulation, subsequent to publication thereof. Announcement of such changes are made on a routine basis within the College.

## Equal Opportunity Policy

The New England College of Optometry prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, creed, marital or parental status, sexual preference, or national origin in the recruitment and admission of students, the recruitment and employment of faculty and staff, and the operation of its programs and activities, as specified by federal and state laws and regulations.

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The New England College of  
Optometry

Catalog 2001 - 2002

**THE NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**

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Message from the President	1
The Profession and the College	2
Mission Statement	3
Vision Statement	3
History of the College	3
The Campus	6
Teaching	7
Patient Care	9
Research	12
International Programs & The Global Classroom	13
Professional Curriculum (Doctor of Optometry degree)	15
The Goals of Optometric Education	15
Educational Objectives	16
Curriculum 2010	17
Doctor of Optometry Degree Programs	18
Professional Curriculum	21
Clinical Education: The Final Year	32
Educational Opportunities in Research	35
General Information on Special Academic Programs	36
The Faculty	39
Degree Requirements & Academic Policies	46
Admissions to the College	69
Admissions Process	71
Tuition and Fees and Financial Aid	74
Student Affairs and Activities	86
Board of Trustees, Administration	91



## Message from the President



This catalog outlines the courses, programs, and policies of The New England College of Optometry; what it does not adequately express is the heritage of over *100 years of teaching excellence and commitment to patient care* that is equally a part of this venerable institution. We strive to educate practitioners of the highest professional and technical competence and to imbue in our graduates a commitment to service, personal and intellectual growth, and uncompromising ethical behavior. We choose our students with care because they will be our lifelong colleagues and must share the ideals of professionalism and caring that we value so highly.

The College has three primary missions: *education, patient care, and research*. We make sure that our graduates have a strong academic foundation, an extensive and diverse patient care experience, and an appreciation for intellectual discovery. While at the College, our students have an outstanding opportunity to learn from, and with, some of the nation's finest faculty and to gain their clinical training in the most extensive network of health care facilities of any school of optometry.

Our location in the historic Back Bay of Boston provides an opportunity to study in *America's foremost educational and medical community*. Although we are a small independent graduate/professional school, we have both formal and informal local affiliations with some of the finest universities, medical centers, and libraries in the world.

I invite you to visit our historic facilities and to learn more about this remarkable institution. I know you will be welcomed and pleased with what you find.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Laird Lewis".

Alan Laird Lewis, O.D., Ph.D.  
President



## The Profession and the College



Optometry began as a legally recognized health profession in the United States at the turn of the century. By the end of the 1920s, all 48 states had passed optometry laws that recognized the profession, and a national optometric accrediting body was formed *to evaluate educational programs and judge the quality of optometric education*. This movement in optometric education closely paralleled similar developments in medical and dental education.

The seventeen schools and colleges of optometry in the United States and Puerto Rico enroll approximately 1,400 first-year students each year. All institutions offer academic programs that fulfill the requirements for the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree, a prerequisite for licensure in every state. Individual states may impose their own additional requirements for licensure, such as state board written examinations, the National Board examination, and practical examinations in clinical optometry.

Most of the *35,000 practicing optometrists in the United States serve in private or group practice* as primary eye care practitioners (diagnosing and treating visual problems, ocular disease, and ocular manifestations of systemic conditions, as well as providing health counseling). *Optometrists practice in clinical settings or are involved in government service, industry, school consulting, teaching, or research.*

The composition of the entering *classes at colleges of optometry has changed dramatically* during the past twenty years. Greater diversity now exists in gender, ethnicity, citizenship, and age. Today, women comprise over half of the enrollment at The New England College of Optometry, and *ethnic minorities and international students represent about a third of the enrollment*. The once relatively homogenous group of enrolled students has become a diverse population more reflective of the general college graduate population.



## Mission Statement



The mission of The New England College of Optometry is *to serve the optometric needs of the public by educating optometrists to the highest level* of proficiency, integrity, and professionalism.

## Vision Statement

The New England College of Optometry seeks to be the preeminent college of Optometry.



The New England College of Optometry educates the *world leaders of tomorrow for careers in eye care* delivery, research, and education. The College honors discovery and supports an academic community which *excels at teaching and research*. The College is ever mindful of the public interest and possesses the resolve to produce important and *lasting improvements in visual health and welfare throughout the world*.

## History of the College

The New England College of Optometry began in 1894 with *Dr. August A. Klein's mission to create an institution that would serve the public by formally educating persons to prescribe and dispense eyewear*, a function that until then was performed largely by jewelers and spectacle peddlers. A German-born ophthalmologist, Dr. Klein and three of his children devoted the next fifty years to nurturing what began as the Klein School of Optics. The mission of The New England College of Optometry has always had two central themes: serving the needs of the public and educating highly competent practitioners. Guided by this philosophy, the College has made noteworthy contributions in its first one hundred years.

The New England College of Optometry is the only optometry college in New England and has *educated approximately 70% of the region's optometrists*. The College recently completed an \$8.5 million renovation of its century-old campus in Boston's Back Bay and has established its first substantial endowment, which will exceed \$12 million in 2000. *The College has also instituted the largest international optometric program in the world* by developing extension programs, the first of their kind, with China, Germany, Italy, Spain, and South Africa.

During its first half-century, as optometry gained acceptance, the school evolved accordingly. The course of study was expanded from a few months to one year, then two in 1909, three in 1934, and four in 1939. It became the first optometry college in the country to require five years of post-secondary education for the Doctor of Optometry degree: two pre-professional years followed by three years of professional study. Today, the requirement is eight years of post-secondary education. The name changed in 1901 to the Massachusetts School of Optometry, in 1950 to the Massachusetts College of Optometry, and in 1976 to *The New England College of Optometry to reflect its growing regional commitment*. The College was the first institution worldwide to incorporate the term optometry in its official name.

In 1933, the College began its first external clinic with the Harry E. Burroughs Newsboys Foundation. *The Massachusetts Optometric Clinic, opened in 1941* on Commonwealth Avenue, was the forerunner of today's fully equipped New England Eye Institute, at 1255 Boylston Street. In 1942, the school began an externship with the Boston Evening Clinic, followed by similar programs in parochial schools, missions, neighborhood centers, and community centers. Early in the 1970s, the College established *affiliations with Boston-area neighborhood health centers and government-affiliated hospitals*. The elder eye care outreach program, begun in 1986, provides on-site services at senior housing developments. Today, the College's *clinical programs extend to nearly fifty hospitals, medical centers, and private practices* throughout the United States and include three affiliations abroad.

With the 1946 death of Dr. Theodore Klein, son of the founder, the school ceased to be a private corporation. That year the Commonwealth granted a nonprofit charter and the right to confer professional degrees. *In 1947, the American Optometric Association's Council on Education and Professional Guidance fully accredited the College.* The state enabled the school to grant a *four-year Bachelor of Science degree and the following year, the Doctor of Optometry and honorary Doctor of Ocular Science degrees.*

During the late 1960s, the College applied for federal assistance to strengthen the curriculum. It used the first grant, in 1967 to improve science courses and the next year became the first optometric college to become affiliated with a U.S. Public Health Hospital eye clinic. Around the same time, the curriculum changed to focus greater emphasis on biosciences, in keeping with the new state laws that expanded the scope of optometry in the diagnosis and management of ocular disease. Again in the vanguard, *the College was the first to prepare optometrists for certification in the use of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents.*



During the 1990's, the College embarked on a major expansion of its research activities. It now houses the *Myopia Research Center, the COMET (Correction of Myopia Evaluation Trial) clinical trials project, the VIP (Vision in Pre-schoolers) project,* and other federally funded investigations. Although a small independent college, The New England College of Optometry rivals other optometry schools in the number and quality of its research activities and is now expanding its research efforts into applied clinical areas.

Dr. Alan Laird Lewis was appointed as the fifth president of the College in October 1999. He is committed to continue the long history of the College as a world leader in education, public service, clinical care, and research.



## The College Campus



The Campus of *The New England College of Optometry* is a community that extends over two locations within the City of Boston. The main campus or *Beacon Street Campus* is located at 424 Beacon Street in the heart of the Historic Back Bay of Boston, overlooking the Charles River and M.I.T. beyond. *The Boylston Street Campus* is located at 1255 Boylston Street in the Fenway section of Boston, adjacent to Fenway Park and the Longwood Medical district.

### The Beacon Street Campus

As an institution within an historic residential area, the College is sensitive to its responsibility to maintain and restore its buildings exteriors and interiors to strengthen the historic fabric of this important part of the city.

The main building on the Beacon Street campus was designed by J.H. Schweinforth and built in 1904. The College meticulously restored this building to its present award-winning splendor in 1996. Today, a spectacular four-story solid oak spiral staircase, capped by a circular leaded glass dome, distinguishes its restored interior.

This site contains classroom and laboratory space in support of the Department of Biomedical and Vision Sciences as well as research. The College Library is also located on this site as are the offices of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Administrative Services, Business Office, Development and Alumni Affairs and the Presidents Office.

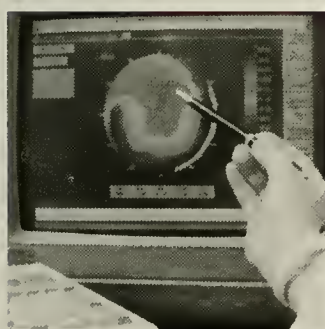
### The College Library

The Italian Renaissance style building that houses the College Library was designed by Boston architects Peabody and Sterns and constructed in 1894. The opulent interior design reflects the lifestyle and attention to detail exhibited by the wealthy elite of Boston at the turn of the century. The building was enlarged and painstakingly restored in 1998 and now recaptures the elegance and ambiance inherent in the original design.

### **The Boylston Street Campus**

The Boylston Street Campus is located at 1255 Boylston Street in the Fenway district of the city, adjacent to Fenway Park and the Longwood Medical District. The Boylston Street Campus houses the administrative offices of the New England Eye Institute, the Fenway Center patient care facility as well as offices, classrooms and laboratories to support the Department of Community Care and Public Health and the Department of Advanced and Specialty Care. diseases. Visual field testing and ocular photography services are utilized to confirm or help diagnose the presence, severity, and progression of disease and to monitor the results of specific treatments. Located at 1255 Boylston Street in Boston's Fenway neighborhood is the College Boylston campus. At this location the College houses academic departmental administration, faculty offices, teaching labs, seminar room, and clinical research space for the Department of Community Care and Public Health and the Department of Specialty and Advanced Care. The Clinical Care organization of the College, the New England Eye Institute, also uses space at the Boylston campus. The Institute maintains its administrative services center and the Fenway Practice, a comprehensive eye care facility, at the campus.

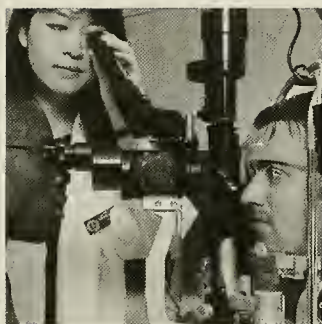
### **Teaching**



The College has long been recognized for its commitment to creativity, innovation and leadership in education.

Among its many accomplishments, The New England College of Optometry has led the country in the inclusion and expansion of the biomedical sciences within the optometry curriculum; pioneered the advancement of Optometry's role as a primary health care provider; and established the nation's most advanced clinical externship programs. The College currently maintains a network of over fifty clinical affiliates, including hospitals, health centers and private practices across the United States and abroad.

As we look into the future of optometric education, the demand upon 21st century optometrists will be many. Change will be a constant element in the delivery of care. Optometrists will need to assimilate an ever-expanding knowledge base, negotiate a complex health care system, learn and use new technologies in both the diagnosis and treatment of disease, adapt to new information systems, and continue to broaden their primary care role. With these challenges in mind, the educational programs of The New England College of Optometry provide students with the knowledge, the skills and the attitudes needed to be successful throughout their careers.



The Doctor of Optometry degree programs provide students with a strong foundation in the visual, biomedical and clinical sciences, which are then integrated through a rich and diverse patient care experience.

It is the philosophy of the College to underscore the important relationship between the basic sciences and the student's future role as optometrists by seeking to involve students in patient care at the earliest possible time. Clinical experience enables students to become competent patient care professionals who can integrate scientific knowledge with clinical insights to solve complex vision problems.

The College's educational programs are delivered by faculty selected for their expertise, commitment to teaching and support for the environment within which students may thrive. Throughout the educational programs, the human dimension of being a health care provider is emphasized, as is an appreciation for a commitment to community service and personal development.



## Patient Care



The New England Eye Institute is the clinical care and community service organization of the College. The Institute, operates a *comprehensive eye care practice* in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston, *manages primary eye care centers* in community service sites, and provides professional staff to Boston area hospitals and health centers.

The Fenway Practice is located at the College's Boylston Campus. This health facility and optometry practice site provides Boston area patients with a *wide range of services*.

*Primary Eye Care* ~ Quality eye exams for eye health and vision correction for all ages. Special services for infants, children and seniors.

*Eyewear Center* ~ Over 1,000 Frames to choose from, with the latest frame designs and lens technology in full price range. Best value in Boston.

*Contact Lens Service* ~ Initial evaluation, lens fitting, follow-up visits, consultation for current contact lens wearers, and replacement lenses. An extensive inventory of contact lenses and lens care solutions.

*Low Vision Service* ~ Vision care for those who, because of physical condition, age, accident, disease, or birth defect have reduced vision which is not correctable by standard optical correction.

*Vision Therapy Service* ~ Comprehensive binocular vision evaluation and therapy for conditions including visual skills dysfunctions, strabismus, amblyopia, and visual perceptual disorders.

The Fenway Practice of the Institute offers a complete range of eye and vision care services. The Practice uses a TEAMCARE APPROACH. Every Patient Has a Primary Eye Care Doctor. Patients are the center of attention for our team of doctors, residents, student clinicians and staff.

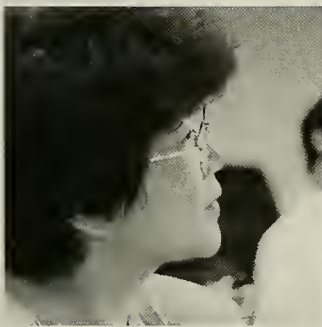
The Institute supports the operation of Primary Eye Care Centers through Professional service Agreements with 10 Neighborhood Health Centers in Boston. The Institute operates eye clinics and provides mobile eye services at over 20 sites in eastern Massachusetts. Children's Vision Screening programs serve over 70 sites in 31 communities.

The Institute's patient care sites in addition to the Fenway Practice include:

Boston University Geriatric Service  
Caspar Emergency Service Center  
Dimock Community Health Center  
Dorchester House MultiService  
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center  
Elder Service Plan of Harbor HEalth  
Geiger Gibson Community Health Center  
Martha Eliot Health Center  
May Center  
New England Shelter for Homeless Vet  
North End Community Health Center  
Perkins School  
Pine St. Inn  
RosiePlace  
Shaughnessy Kaplan  
Smith Health Center  
South Boston Community Health Center  
South End Community Health Center  
St. Elizabeth Hospital Home Care  
St. Francis House  
The Boston Home (Long Term Care Facility)  
Uphams Corner Health Center  
Uphams Home Care  
Wingate of Brighton (Nursing Home)  
Women Lunch Place

The Institute's most ambitious effort to meet the community health needs of special populations is the Home Eye Service. For over 15 years, the Home Eye Service (HES) has been providing comprehensive eye care to the homeless and the homebound elderly of Greater Boston. This successful community health initiative of the Institute is the only program in Boston addressing the serious public health problems of untreated vision impairment in high health risk elderly.

*The Home Eye Service* is a unique approach to reach people in need who cannot easily access traditional hospital or clinic based eye care. Several days each week this program *transports care teams of optometrist*, residents and students *to various homeless shelters* and personal residences, sets up care units with portable ophthalmic diagnostic equipment and *delivers comprehensive management and treatment services*. Finances are never a concern for the patient because the program's professional services are directly supported by the New England Eye Institute. Often eyeglasses are donated to those with demonstrated need. Services of the *Home Eye Service* are coordinated with various community based organizations and agencies. The program is sharply focused to the needs of the Boston community and each patient served.



But more needs to be done. The institute is now *exploring ways to expand the program* to serve the growing population in need. The U.S. *population is aging at a rapid rate*. Now representing 12.8% of the U.S. population, the number of elderly is expected to double by 2030. Understandably, most families do not want to admit their parents into nursing homes when these loved ones become frail or need special care. In some communities adult day care programs and home care have emerged to meet these needs. Unfortunately in all these programs, *vision care is typically overlooked*. Hence the need for the *Home Eye Service* of the New England Eye Institute, the leading institute in this *unique* delivery model of community based eye care.

Not only is this innovated program providing much needed care to *hundreds of needy elderly* each year, its training program is *preparing the optometrist of tomorrow* with the clinical skills and motivation to serve these patients throughout the country. If Optometry students are not educated or introduced to these modalities of practice, the elderly population may suffer even more for lack of access to specialty educated clinicians. Thus the work of the *Home Eye Service* *is preparing the next generation of care givers skilled in serving the populations in greatest need for comprehensive eye care*.



The institute has begun work on the *Community Eye Care Needs Assessment Project CENAP*. This major initiative will:

*Evaluate data on health disparities relating to vision impairment in Boston Communities.*

*Identify barriers to access of eye care.*

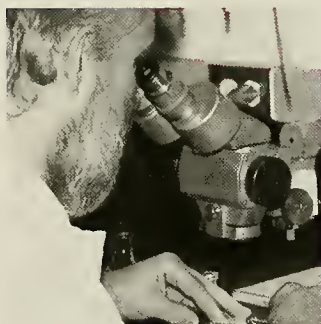
*Complete community geo-studies.*

*Locate under served populations.*

*Develop an institute response strategy.*

The New England Eye Institute, based on the findings of the CENAP, will enhance care at current sites, develop new service locations and expand partnerships with health providers and community organizations.

## Research



Optometry as a health-care profession has an obligation to not only provide vision care to patients, but also to conduct research. Thereby advancing our knowledge of visual disorders and disease, with an eye towards prevention and more effective intervention. Through research, optometry contributes significantly to the improvement of visual health and function for people worldwide.

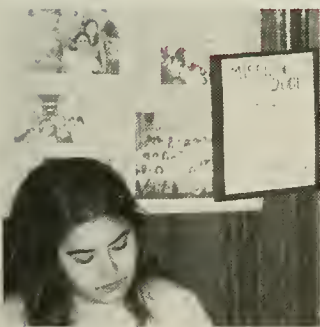
Since 1894, The New England College of Optometry has been the educational and intellectual center of optometry in New England. During these years, the College has established itself as a dynamic institution in Boston and, during the past decade, its influence has spread throughout the world. Although the College is small compared to many other educational institutions, its research program emulates larger universities in ambition and scope.

The faculty of The New England College of Optometry supports the advancement of knowledge through both basic and clinical research. Indeed, the faculty of The New England College of Optometry contributes over 100 scholarly publications and presentations annually to the scientific literature. While the College's investigative efforts are wide ranging, including biomedical research, human vision research and clinical studies, the College is, perhaps, best known currently for its research into myopia.

In a bold move, the College established the Myopia Research Center in 1995, building a small but world-class research center dedicated to advancing the knowledge and treatment of myopia. After creating a multidisciplinary team of research faculty, the Myopia Research Center rapidly became one of the most recognized and productive sources of new knowledge of myopia world-wide. In the summer of 2000, the College hosted the VIII International Myopia Research meeting, attracting two hundred researchers from around the world for the dissemination of information and the open exchange of ideas.

The commitment of the College Community to research and the advancement of vision care has created an academic environment rich in intellectual exchange and opportunity.

## International Programs & Global Classroom



Chances are, at any given time, either an international scholar or a College faculty member is participating in one of the College's International Programs.

Optometry is an evolving world-wide profession and The New England College of Optometry is shaping the education of optometrists in lands far from its Boston home. Indeed, even on our Boston-based campus, approximately 25% of the student body

received their pre-professional education outside the United States. Since the 1970's, the College pioneered such innovative programs as the Advanced Standing International Program, which awards O.D. degrees after two years of study to graduates from optometric colleges from around the world. From 1992 until 1997, the program was delivered on a part-time basis in Italy and stands as the only time a Doctor of Optometry program has been delivered abroad.

Established in 1994, the College's Center for the International Advancement of Optometry operates programs in Africa, Asia, and Europe, representing the greatest diversity in international programs of any college of optometry in the United States. The Center was established with the mission "to promote access to high quality and comprehensive eye and vision care for under served populations around the world."

In recent years, the Center's efforts have been focussed in China, Spain, and South Africa. In China, the College leads a consortium of American and Chinese Universities in the development of optometric education in five of China's top medical universities. A Bachelor of Science in Optometry Degree Program has been delivered in Spain. In South Africa, optometrists are enrolled in specialized Certificate of Advanced Standing Programs, such as "Neuro-Optometry," "Ocular Disease and Pharmacological Applications," and "Human Biology."

The New England College of Optometry embraces international education as part of its' core mission. It is committed in the years ahead to the advancement of the profession and the education of leaders around the world.

### Accreditation

The New England College of Optometry is a nonprofit institution that is fully accredited by the Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.



# Professional Curriculum ~ Doctor of Optometry Degree

## The Goals of Optometric Education



Doctors of optometry are independent health care providers who specialize in the examination, diagnosis, treatment, and management of diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye and related structures, as well as the diagnosis of related systemic conditions,” (American Optometric Association).

Optometric education comprises a broad-based curriculum founded in visual, biomedical, and clinical sciences, which is integrated through patient care experience. Optometrists serve as primary eye care professionals ready to interact with other health care providers to improve the human condition.

The primary goals of the educational program of The New England College of Optometry are to prepare students to render the highest quality comprehensive ophthalmic and related systemic care by educating them to the highest level of proficiency, integrity, and professionalism, and to teach students to develop and apply the tools required for lifelong learning. These skills include learning to diagnose or recognize and interpret early signs of ocular, neurological, environmental, behavioral, and systemic health problems for purposes of treatment and management, co-management, referral, or patient counseling. The academic and clinical course of study prepares students to become Doctors of Optometry: professionals prepared to skillfully and confidently meet the ocular, visual, and other health-related needs of their patients.

## Educational Objectives

In support of the goals of optometric education, The New England College of Optometry has established twelve objectives for its educational programs:

- to provide* an educational environment that insures intellectual growth and scholarly development;
- to foster* an understanding and appreciation of the scientific methodology used to diagnose and treat human visual conditions;
- to educate* students in the biomedical sciences to insure that they understand the mechanisms that affect both the normal and diseased human state;
- to educate* students in the vision sciences to insure that they understand the mechanisms underlying normal and abnormal vision;
- to inculcate* the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to diagnose, treat, and manage diseases of the visual system, ocular effects of systemic conditions, and high incidence diseases that may affect the visual system;
- to provide* students with comprehensive supervised clinical experiences to enable them to make sound clinical judgments and provide the highest quality of patient care;
- to familiarize* students with general and ocular emergency procedures;
- to teach* the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable optometrists to serve as community resources in matters of eye care, applied visual science, disease prevention, and some other health practices;
- to educate* students about the proper management of patient problems by appropriate referral to a practitioner with advanced experience in such areas as low vision rehabilitation and secondary (surgical) ophthalmic care;
- to provide* students with a knowledge of health care policy, modes of health care delivery and practice management, and the skills needed to adjust to the changing health care environment;
- to foster* an appreciation of systems for information access and the ability to critically assess new knowledge and research;
- to develop* in students the fundamental skills and attitudes required for lifelong learning and the maintenance of professional competence.

## Curriculum 2010



The New England College of Optometry strives to provide students with an educational experience that prepares them for the practice of optometry, not only today, but for many years into the future. In October 1998, a Curriculum 2010 Task Force was established to “*assess, review and design a comprehensive curriculum which will meet the needs of graduating students ten years hence.*”

With the class of students entering in September, 2001, the implementation of “Curriculum 2010” will begin. The design and development of Curriculum 2010 has been founded upon several key principles.

*Attract* expert faculty committed to teaching and the growth of students

*Integrate* the basic and clinical sciences

*Provide* for early assimilation of students into patient care settings

*Provide* students with exposure to diverse patient care experiences

Use diverse forms of instruction to *maximize* student learning

*Educate* students to continually acquire, assess and analyze new information

*Offer* an education based within the broader context of the patient within their community and the health care system.

Along with the implementation of Curriculum 2010, the first year class will be on a Semester calendar rather than a Quarter system. Within the next three years, the semester structure will be phased in to include the first three years of the Doctor of Optometry degree program.



## Doctor of Optometry Degree Programs



The New England College of Optometry offers three programs leading to the Doctor of Optometry degree. (Specific admissions requirements are described beginning on page 69.)

### **The Four-year Doctor of Optometry Degree Program**

The four-year program is designed for applicants who have completed a minimum of three years of undergraduate education or the credit hour equivalent. Students are generally expected to have completed a bachelors degree. The program, conducted within a four-year period, is thirteen and a half academic quarters in duration. Students spend twelve months (four quarters) in their final year assigned to external clinical care sites.

### **The Advanced Standing International Program**

The Advanced Standing International Program is one component of the College's ongoing commitment to international optometry and its efforts to develop highly educated professionals who may then contribute to the development of optometry in their home countries.

Through the College's Center for the International Advancement of Optometry, graduates of foreign optometry programs may be admitted with advanced standing to the Doctor of Optometry degree program.

The core curriculum for this program is designed to complement the student's previous education and experience. The previous education of each student is assessed and appropriate modifications are made to the curriculum to insure that students graduating from the program possess the same requisite entry-level competencies as other students receiving the Doctor of Optometry degree from the College.

### **The Accelerated Doctor of Optometry Degree Program**

The Accelerated Doctor of Optometry Degree Program was established in 1972 to attract individuals possessing advanced knowledge and skills who could provide unique contributions through teaching, research, and clinical care. The Accelerated Degree Program is designed to provide an accelerated education for



qualified applicants with either an earned doctorate in one of the biological, behavioral, or physical sciences, or a doctoral-level health profession degree.

Graduates of the program are prepared to enter the profession in clinical practice, optometric education, or research. The program is conducted over nine consecutive academic quarters, thereby taking slightly more than two years to complete.

### **Professional Curriculum**

The curricula for each of the three programs are organized and delivered through four departments: Vision Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Community Care and Public Health, and Specialty and Advanced Care. Each course is developed as one step in a sequence designed to facilitate each student's mastery of the knowledge and skills required of an optometric professional capable of managing conditions of the human eye and visual system.

*The Department of Vision Sciences* provides course material leading to an understanding of the theory and application of optics as well as the structure and function of the normal and abnormal visual system. To that end, the content of the vision science curriculum is presented within four general areas: optics, vision testing, binocular vision and visual neuroscience.

*The Department of Biomedical Sciences* courses provide the student with an understanding of the normal and abnormal structure and function of the human organism. A background is provided in the fundamental anatomical, biochemical, and biophysical mechanisms; the physiological, immunological, and pathological processes; and the diagnosis, treatment, and management of ocular disease.

*The Department of Community Care and Public Health* provides classroom education, technical workshops, and clinical training to help students develop their patient care skills and to understand the role of optometric care within the greater health care delivery system. Emphasis is placed on balancing scientific knowledge, technical expertise, problem-solving ability and personal interactions to stimulate doctors-in-training to become competent, compassionate, eye care professionals. Clinical assignments are selected based upon their offering diverse patient populations, exposure to state of the art instrumentation, and supervisory faculty who are committed to both patient care and education.

*The Department of Specialty and Advanced Care* offers courses and clinical programs that encompass the specific background, skills, clinical insights, and patient-management capabilities required of optometrists within the specialized clinical realm of contact lenses, low vision, and pediatric optometry and binocular vision. The curriculum provides a foundation that integrates basic science with clinical science and is directly related to the provision of clinical care of patients within these specialized subject areas.

Clinical experiences enable students to become competent optometric professionals who can integrate scientific knowledge with clinical insights to diagnose, treat, and manage visual and ocular problems and co-manage related systemic conditions. The preceptorship method is used throughout the program. It calls for close initial supervision by licensed faculty, with the students assuming more responsibility over time. The role of the preceptor slowly changes from supervisor to consultant. The students' final year is entirely clinical with assignments to an array of diverse practice settings.



## Professional Curriculum

The New England College of Optometry reserves the right to make any changes in the curriculum needed to assure that the program provided is effective and contemporary in scope.

*All listings below refer to the 2001 / 2002 academic year only. Course descriptions may be found on the College's web-site at [www.ne-optometry.edu](http://www.ne-optometry.edu).*

### Four-Year Doctor of Optometry Program

Didactic courses are taught within the first three program years, with elective courses supplementing core courses of the third year. The fourth year of the professional curriculum consists of individually assigned clinical rotations. The program is reviewed on an ongoing basis and the College reserves the right to modify the curriculum to insure that students acquire the most contemporary knowledge and skills.

### First Year

Fall Semester			
Title	Course #	Department	Credit
Neuroanatomy	X	Biomedical Sciences and Disease	3.5
General Histology & Ocular Anatomy	X	Biomedical Sciences and Disease	3.5
Optics I	X	Vision Sciences	6.0
Theory & Methods of Vision Testing	X	Vision Sciences	5.5
Principles & Practices of Optometry I	X	Community Care & Public Health	5.5
Total Semester Credit Hours		24	

<b>Spring Semester</b>			
Human Anatomy	X	Biomedical Sciences and Disease	3.5
Systems Physiology & Histology	X	Biomedical Sciences and Disease	6.5
BioChem, MolBiol & Cell Physiology	X	Biomedical Sciences and Disease	6.5
Interdisciplinary Integrative Seminar	X	Biomedical Sciences and Disease	2
Optics II	X	Vision Sciences	7.0
Principles & Practices of Optometry II	X	Community Care & Public Health	8.0
Total Semester Credit Hours		34.5	

<b>Spring Quarter</b>			
Neuroanatomy	1013	Biomedical Sciences	4
Ocular Physiology	1113	Biomedical Sciences	4
Integrative Seminar I	1230	Biomedical Sciences	2
Ophthalmic Optics	1412	Vision Sciences	4
Optometric Theory & Methods III	1713	Community Care & Public Health	5
Quarter Credit Hours		19	

## Second Year

<b>Fall Quarter</b>			
Title	Course #	Department	Credit
Microbiology	1140	Biomedical Sciences	3
Mechanical Optics	1413	Vision Sciences	2
Introduction to Ocular Disease I	2211	Biomedical Sciences	4
Special Topics in Optics	2414	Vision Sciences	3
Neural Basis of Vision	2520	Vision Sciences	3
Binocular Vision & Space Perception	2580	Vision Sciences	3
Introduction to			

Clinical Care I	2741	Community Care & Public Health	3
Quarter Credit Hours		21	
<b>Winter Quarter</b>			
General Pharmacology	2151	Biomedical Sciences	4
Introduction to Ocular Disease II	2212	Biomedical Sciences	4
General Pathology	2221	Biomedical Sciences	3
Vision Testing & Diagnosis	2514	Vision Sciences	3
Ocular Motility	2530	Vision Sciences	4
Introduction to Clinical Care II	2742	Community Care & Public Health	3
Quarter Credit Hours		21	
<b>Spring Quarter</b>			
Ocular Pharmacology	2152	Biomedical Sciences	3
Systems Pathology	2222	Biomedical Sciences	3
Environmental Optometry	2515	Vision Sciences	3
Development of Vision	2550	Vision Sciences	3
Analysis of Accommodation & Vergence	2560	Vision Sciences	2
Health Care Economics	2802	Community Care & Public Health	1
Contact Lenses I	2761	Specialty & Advanced Care	4
Introduction to Clinical Practice	2910	Community Care & Public Health	2
Quarter Credit Hours		21	

## Third Year

### Summer Quarter

Title	Course #	Department	Credit
Binocular & Accommodative Anomalies of Vision	2751	Specialty & Advanced Care	4
Contact Lenses IIa	3762	Specialty & Advanced Care	1
Basic Clinical Practice I	3911	Community Care & Public Health	3
Quarter Credit Hours		8	

**Fall Quarter**

Ocular Disease Ia	3261	Biomedical Sciences	3
Strabismus & Amblyopia	3752	Specialty & Advanced Care	4
Contact Lenses IIb	3762	Specialty & Advanced Care	3
Patient Interviewing & Counseling	3781	Community Care & Public Health	1
Adult Psychology	3782	Community Care & Public Health	2
Practice Management I	3811	Community Care & Public Health	2
Basic Clinical Practice II	3912	Community Care & Public Health	3
Contact Lens Clinical Practice	3941	Specialty & Advanced Care	2
Quarter Credit Hours		20	

**Winter Quarter**

Clinical Medicine I	3231	Biomedical Sciences	2
Neuro-Optometry	3255	Biomedical Sciences	3
Ocular Disease Ib	3262	Biomedical Sciences	3
Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease I	3263	Biomedical Sciences	2
Vision Rehabilitation	3771	Specialty & Advanced Care	2
Vision Rehabilitation Lab	3772	Specialty & Advanced Care	1
Practice Management II	3812	Community Care & Public Health	2
Basic Clinical Practice III	3913	Community Care & Public Health	3
Contact Lens Clinical Practice	3941	Specialty & Advanced Care	2
		*Electives	2
Quarter Credit Hours		22	

**Spring Quarter**

Clinical Medicine II	3232	Biomedical Sciences	4
Treatment & Management of Ocular Disease II	3264	Biomedical Sciences	3

Pediatrics	3753	Specialty & Advanced Care	4
Vision Rehabilitation Lab	3772	Specialty & Advanced Care	1
Geriatrics	3790	Biomedical Sciences	1
Advanced Clinical Techniques	3795	Community Care & Public Health	2
Epidemiology	3835	Community Care & Public Health	1
Basic Clinical Practice IV	3914	Community Care & Public Health	3
Contact Lens Clinical Practice	3941	Specialty & Advanced Care	2
		*Electives	2
Quarter Credit Hours			23

### Internal clinical programs include:

The New England Eye Institute of The New England College of Optometry, Boston, MA

- Primary Care Service providing basic optometric examinations, ophthalmology consultation services, ocular photography services, and visual fields clinic
- Pediatrics and Vision Therapy Service
- Contact Lens Service
- Low Vision Rehabilitation Service
- Specialty Services: Electrodiagnosis, Color Vision Testing, VDT Clinic
- Dispensary Services

Community Outreach Programs (Home Eye Services and Screening Programs)

Homeless Veterans Eye Clinic, VA Shelter for Homeless Veterans, Boston, MA

### FINAL YEAR

Clinical Practice	491X	External Clinic	20
	492X	External Clinic	20
	493X	External Clinic	20
	494X	Contact Lens Practice	4
	49XX	Advanced Clinical Care	20
		Total Credit Hours	84



### Elective Courses

(A minimum of 4 units of electives are required in the third year.)

Elective courses change periodically. Below is a sampling of past year offerings.

TITLE	CREDITS
Advanced Contact Lens Seminars	2
Advanced Vision Rehabilitation	2
Advanced Practice Management	1 or 2
Fabrication of Ophthalmic Materials	1
Guide to Binocular Vision Problems	1
Headache	1
Selected Topics in Problem-based Clinical Thinking	1
Legal Issues & Controversy in Optometry	2
Clinical Ocular Disease Cases in Primary Care	2
Advanced Refractive Theory & Methods	2
Insights into Money Management and Investing	2
Management of Open Angle Glaucoma	2
Elective courses listed are subject to change, depending on curricular needs and student interest.	

### The Advanced Standing International Program

The core curriculum listed below reflects a sequence that articulates with most foreign optometry programs to insure that graduates have acquired the clinical competencies commensurate with receiving the Doctor of Optometry degree. The curriculum may be modified according to a student's previous education and experience at the time of acceptance. Didactic courses are taught within the first year of the program, with elective courses optional. The second year of the professional curriculum consists of individually assigned clinical rotations. The program is reviewed on an ongoing basis and the College reserves the right to modify the curriculum to insure that students acquire the most contemporary knowledge and skills.



## First Year

### Summer Quarter

Title	Course #	Department	Credit
Neuroanatomy	1013a	Biomedical Sciences	2
Human Anatomy	9010	Biomedical Sciences	6
Histology	9020	Biomedical Sciences	2
Systems Physiology I	9120	Biomedical Sciences	4
Introduction to Clinical Care I	2741	Community Care & Public Health	3
Binocular & Accommodative Anomalies of Vision	2751	Specialty & Advanced Care	2
Contact Lenses I	9762	Specialty & Advanced Care	3
Quarter Credit Hours		22	

### Fall Quarter

Title	Course #	Department	Credit
Neuroanatomy	1013b	Biomedical Sciences	2
Ocular Disease Ia	3261	Biomedical Sciences	3
Pathology	9220a	Biomedical Sciences	3
Neural Basis of Vision	2520	Vision Sciences	3
Introduction to Ocular Disease I	2211	Biomedical Sciences	4
Strabismus & Amblyopia	3752	Specialty & Advanced Care	4
Vision Rehabilitation	3771	Specialty & Advanced Care	2
Basic Clinical Practice	XXXX	Clinic	1
Quarter Credit Hours		22	

### Winter Quarter

General Pharmacology	2151	Biomedical Sciences	4
Clinical Medicine I	3231	Biomedical Sciences	2
Neuro-Optometry	3255	Biomedical Sciences	3
Ocular Disease Ib	3262	Biomedical Sciences	3
Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease	3263	Biomedical Sciences	2
Pathology	9220b	Biomedical Sciences	1

Ocular Motility	2530	Vision Sciences	4
Development of Vision	2550	Vision Sciences	3
Introduction to			
Ocular Disease II	2212	Biomedical Sciences	4
Advanced Contact Lenses	6763	Specialty & Advanced Care	2
Basic Clinical Practice	3912	Community Care & Public Health	3
Quarter Credit Hours		31	

### Spring Quarter

Ocular Pharmacology	2152	Biomedical Sciences	3
Clinical Medicine II	3232	Biomedical Sciences	4
Treatment & Management			
of Ocular Disease	3264	Biomedical Sciences	3
Pediatrics	3753	Specialty & Advanced Care	4
Environmental Optometry	2515	Vision Sciences	3
Analysis of Accommodation			
& Vergence	2560	Vision Sciences	2
Advanced Clinical			
Techniques	3795	Specialty & Advanced Care	2
Basic Clinical Practice	9913	Specialty & Advanced Care	5
Quarter Credit Hours		26	

## Second Year

Clinical Practice	491X	External Clinic	20
	492X	External Clinic	20
	493X	External Clinic	20
	494X	Contact Lens Practice	4
		Total Credit Hours	64

## The Accelerated Doctor of Optometry Program

Depending upon a student's previous education and experience the curriculum may be modified accordingly at the time of acceptance. Core didactic courses are taught during the first five academic quarters, with elective courses optional. The final four quarters of the professional curriculum consist of individually assigned clinical rotations. The program is reviewed on an ongoing basis and the College reserves the right to modify the curriculum to insure that students acquire the most contemporary knowledge and skills.

### First Year

#### Summer Quarter

Title	Course #	Department	Credit
Human Anatomy	9010	Biomedical Sciences	6
Histology	9020	Biomedical Sciences	2
Molecular & Cellular Basis of Disease & Therapy I	9110	Biomedical Sciences	4
Systems Physiology I	9120	Biomedical Sciences	4
Neuroanatomy	1013a	Biomedical Sciences	2
Optometric Theory & Methods	9710	Community Care & Public Health	9
Quarter Credit Hours		27	

#### Fall Quarter

Neuroanatomy	1013b	Biomedical Sciences	2
Microbiology	1140	Biomedical Sciences	3
Pathology	9220a	Biomedical Sciences	3
Geometric Optics	9410	Vision Sciences	3
Neural Basis of Vision	2520	Vision Sciences	3
Binocular Vision & Space Perception	2580	Vision Sciences	3
Mechanical Optics	9413	Vision Sciences	1
Psych/Perception	9510	Vision Sciences	4
Introduction to Ocular Disease I	2211	Biomedical Sciences	4
Introduction to Clinical Care I	2741	Community Care & Public Health	3
Quarter Credit Hours		29	

### Winter Quarter

Clinical Medicine I	3231	Biomedical Sciences	2
Neuro-Optometry	3255	Biomedical Sciences	3
Ocular Disease Ia	3261	Biomedical Sciences	2
Pathology	9220b	Biomedical Sciences	1
Visual Optics	1513	Vision Sciences	3
Vision Testing & Diagnosis	2514	Vision Sciences	3
Ocular Motility	2530	Vision Sciences	4
Introduction to Ocular Disease II	2212	Biomedical Sciences	4
General Pharmacology	9150	Biomedical Sciences	2.5
Introduction to Clinical Care II	9911	Community Care & Public Health	3
Quarter Credit Hours		27.5	

### Spring Quarter

Ocular Physiology	1113	Biomedical Sciences	4
Clinical Medicine II	3232	Biomedical Sciences	4
Ocular Disease Ib	3262	Biomedical Sciences	2
Ocular Pharmacology	9150	Biomedical Sciences	2.5
Ophthalmic Optics	1412	Vision Sciences	4
Environmental Optometry	2515	Vision Sciences	3
Development of Vision	2550	Vision Sciences	3
Analysis of Accommodation & Vergence	2560	Vision Sciences	2
Binocular & Accommodative Anomalies of Vision	2751	Specialty & Advanced Care	2
Contact Lenses I	2761	Specialty & Advanced Care	3
Advanced Clinical Techniques	3795	Specialty & Advanced Care	2
Basic Clinical Practice	9912	Community Care & Public Health	3
Quarter Credit Hours		34.5	



**Second Year**

<b>Summer Quarter</b>			
Title	Course #	Department	Credit
Ocular Disease Ib	3262	Biomedical Sciences	2
Treatment & Management of Ocular Disease	9260	Biomedical Sciences	5
Binocular & Accommodative Anomalies of Vision	2751	Specialty & Advanced Care	2
Contact Lenses	9763	Specialty & Advanced Care	6
Basic Clinical Practice	9913	Community Care & Public Health	7
Quarter Credit Hours		22.5	

<b>Fall Quarter</b>			
Strabismus & Amblyopia	3752	Specialty & Advanced Care	4
Vision Rehabilitation	3771	Specialty & Advanced Care	2
Basic Clinical Practice	49XX	External Clinic	16
Quarter Credit Hours		22	

**Final Year**

Clinical Practice	491X	External Clinic	20
	492X	External Clinic	20
	49XX	Advanced Clinical Care	20
	494X	Contact Lens Practice	4
Total Credit Hours			64

## Clinical Education ~ The Final Year



The final year of the curriculum provides four thirteen-week rotations of full-time clinical experience. Each student's rotation sequence is developed from a list of more than fifty clinical affiliates. These rotations provide experience in all aspects of optometry including primary, secondary, tertiary, and advanced clinical care. During the final year, students also spend two evenings per week and one Saturday per month for one quarter in our contact lens service.

The external clinical affiliations provide an even wider range of patient services and clinical education opportunities for students. Most of these sites are multidisciplinary or intradisciplinary in nature, such that students work alongside other health care professionals and have increased exposure to ocular and systemic diseases and their treatment. The New England Eye Institute, operated by the College, is the main facility for clinical training during the second and third years. However, rotations in pediatrics and specialty services are available for final-year students. Services housed at NEEI are primary care and pediatrics, contact lens, electrophysiology diagnostic, color vision, low vision, complete dispensing, and retina and glaucoma consultation.

Essential requirements for a comprehensive clinical curriculum are met by providing experience to optometrists-in-training in medical and postoperative eye care and through their participation in the managed care arena. Our external clinical network offers experience in a variety of ophthalmic and related systemic specialties, with specific behavioral objectives aimed at insuring that all students receive a comprehensive and balanced clinical education experience.

## **External Clinical Affiliates**

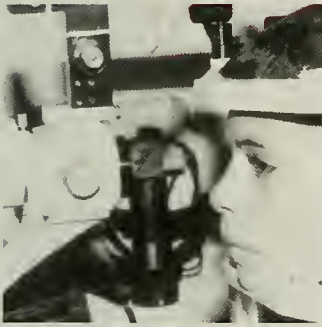
Affiliated clinical centers which serve as educational rotation sites, include:

Aran Eye Associates, North Miami, FL  
Barnet Dulaney Eye Center, Phoenix, AZ  
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, FL  
Braverman Eye Center, Hallandale, FL  
Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX  
Capital Eye Consultants, Fairfax, VA  
Centro Boston de Optometria y Oftalmologia, Madrid, Spain  
Cornea Consultants, Boston, MA  
Correct Vision, Plantation, FL  
The Cotting School, Lexington, MA  
Dimock Community Health Center, Roxbury, MA  
Dorchester House Multi-Service Center, Dorchester, MA  
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, East Boston, MA  
Eye Associates of Fairfield, Fairfield, CT  
Eye Center of Florida, North Miami, FL  
The Eye Foundation of Utah, Murray, UT  
Hanscom AFB, Bedford, MA  
Indian Health Services (IHS)  
    IHS Albuquerque Indian Hospital, Albuquerque, NM  
    IHS Chinle, Chinle, AZ  
    IHS Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM  
Joslin Diabetes Center/ Beetham Eye Unit, Boston, MA  
Koch Eye Associates, Warwick, RI  
Krieger Eye Institute, Baltimore, MD  
Lahey Clinic Medical Center, Peabody, MA  
Leahey Eye Clinic, Lowell, MA  
Martha Eliot Health Center, Jamaica Plain, MA  
The May Center, Randolph, MA  
National Scleral Les Foundation/Boston Eye Center, Chestnut Hill, MA  
Naval Hospital, Groton, CT  
Naval Hospital, Newport, RI  
Naval Hospital, Patuxent River, MD  
New England Eye Institute, Pediatric and Low Vision, Boston, MA  
North End Community Health Center, Boston, MA

OMNI Eye Services of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA  
 OMNI Eye Services of Chattanooga, Chattanooga, TN  
 OMNI Eye Services of New Jersey, Iselin, NJ  
 Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston, Boston, MA  
 Optometric Associates, St. Albans, VT  
 Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA  
 Seidenberg Protzko, Havre de Grace, MD  
 Shaughnessy Kaplan Rehabilitation Hospital, Salem, MA  
 South Boston Community Health Center, South Boston, MA  
 South End Community Health Center, Boston, MA  
 University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD  
 Upham's Corner Health Center, Dorchester, MA  
 VA Hospital/ Bedford-Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Hospital,  
 Bedford, MA  
 VA Medical Center/ Baltimore-Fort Howard, Baltimore, MD  
 VA Medical Center, Brockton, MA  
 VA Medical Center, Fresno, CA  
 VA Medical Center, Lowell, MA  
 VA Medical Center, Manchester, NH  
 VA Medical Center, Hudson Valley System, Montrose, NY  
 VA Medical Center, Newington, CT  
 VA Medical Center, Northampton, MA  
 VA Medical Center, Portland, OR  
 VA Medical Center, Providence, RI  
 VA Medical Center/Eastern Blind Rehabilitation Center, West  
 Haven, CT  
 VA Medical Center, West Roxbury, MA  
 VA Medical Center, White River Junction, VT  
 VA Medical Center, Worcester, MA  
 VA Outpatient Clinic/Eye Clinic, Boston, MA  
 VA Outpatient Clinic, Boston/Jamaica Plain, MA  
 Vision Institute of Canada, North York, Ontario, Canada  
 Washington Navy Yard Branch Medical Clinic, Washington, D.C.



## Educational Opportunities in Research



The College's research program is comparative to many larger universities in ambition and scope. A large part of the research activity evolved from the establishment of the Myopia Research Center in 1995, which attracted world-class myopia researchers to the faculty, bringing both prestige and federal support to the College. Moreover, this growth has concomitantly enhanced the educational opportunities for students interested in research.

Research at the New England College of Optometry covers a number of areas, some of which are overlapping:

- Myopia Research
- Human Vision Research
- Biomedical Research
- Clinical Studies

The research programs are carried out in a unique environment since Boston has the greatest concentration of research in vision and ocular disease in the world. Many College faculty collaborate on projects with researchers at other distinguished institutions in the Boston area. The College also draws from a pool of local talent, some of whom hold adjunct faculty positions at the College. These people bring a unique perspective to the classes that they teach, which enriches the educational experience of all students.

Rapid growth in research during the past decade has made it possible for the New England College of Optometry to offer opportunities for students to participate in research as part of their 4-year academic program. A student may choose a number of options from earned credits to compensated work study in a particular research area, tailored to their level of commitment.

### ***Research Honors Program***

Under this program, students are competitively selected on the basis of their background and scholarship to participate in research training and laboratory work during their first three years at the College. Students earn credits toward their Doctor of Optometry degree by selecting an area of research that interests them and working under the guidance of a faculty mentor to develop and carry out independent research projects. This work will be suitable for publication at completion of the program. In tandem with the laboratory work, students are required to participate in weekly research seminars and are expected to attend lectures presented by researchers from around the world. (Students must maintain a B average in all of their studies to maintain their enrollment in this program.)

### ***Summer Traineeships***

A summer traineeship program, which is sponsored by the National Eye Institute, is less intensive than the Research Honors Program in commitment and scope. The program is open to research honors students and others at The New England College of Optometry, as well as students from around the country. This 10-week course offers introductory training in basic research skills and the opportunity to work in ongoing research in the laboratory of their choice.

## **General Information on Special Academic Programs**



### **Postgraduate Clinical Programs**

The College offers twenty-four postdoctoral residency positions through fourteen programs for the graduate optometrist who desires more advanced training in clinical care.

Residency programs are offered in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and Outpatient Clinics, co-management centers

throughout New England, the Boston Neighborhood Health Centers, and the Boston Medical Centers. Areas of emphasis include family practice, ocular disease, pediatric optometry, contact lenses, rehabilitative optometry and hospital-based optometry.

Applicants for residency positions should be graduates of an accredited school or college of optometry and have excellent scholastic records, strong clinical performance, and/or an interest in advanced patient care, clinical education, and research. Interested graduates should direct their inquiries to the College's Director of Residencies.



### **Center for the International Advancement of Optometry (C.I.A.O.)**

The New England College of Optometry offers several other programs through the Center for the International Advancement of Optometry. The Center was created in 1994 with a mission of *“promoting access to high quality and comprehensive eye and vision care for underserved populations around the world.”*

Towards this end the College has conducted numerous programs for educators and professionals from around the world. Programs are delivered both in Boston and abroad. Overseas programs have been conducted in several countries, including the People's Republic of China, South Africa, Italy, Spain, France, Mexico, and Israel.

While programs are developed to meet the unique needs of each country and/or individual, non-degree programs generally have fallen into two broad categories: the Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) and the Visiting Scholars Program. The Certificate of Advanced Study was established in 1993 for foreign optometry graduates to engage in concentrated study in a specific topical area. Courses of study may include primary care, contact lenses, rehabilitative optometry, and ocular disease. Courses are directly drawn from those in the four-year Doctor of Optometry program at the College.

The Visiting Scholars Program was developed for faculty/health care professionals from other institutions to allow them to participate in custom-designed studies at The New England College of Optometry. The goal is to develop highly trained faculty to assist in the development and implementation of optometry programs in their home countries.

Queries regarding non-degree international programs should be directed to the International Programs office.



### *Center for Continuing Education*

The College considers continuing optometric education to be a major professional responsibility and is dedicated to serving the needs of optometric practitioners throughout their careers. The mission of the Center is to serve the profession as the definitive source of postgraduate clinical education by providing expert leadership and innovation in the organization and delivery of programs that will enhance the knowledge and skills of optometrists.

Courses, seminars, lectures, and hands-on workshops are offered through the College's Center for Continuing Education to keep optometric practitioners current with advances in the practice of optometry. Interactive and grand-rounds programs are presented as adjuncts to certain lecture programs, giving the practitioner an opportunity to examine patients and directly learn from ophthalmic experts using the latest diagnostic and therapeutic techniques available in a clinical setting. Programs are offered in New England, other parts of the country, and internationally with the cooperation of local optometric societies and other colleges of optometry.

The New England College of Optometry is a recognized provider of continuing education by all states having continuing education requirements and by the American Optometric Association.



## The Faculty

The New England College of Optometry attracts a faculty which excels at teaching and is committed to the growth and development of students. The faculty possesses a diverse array of expertise and experiential backgrounds to provide students with a wealth of resources through which they may achieve their potential.

### *Regular Full-Time and Part-Time Faculty*

**Barry J. Barresi**, Professor of Health Policy and Vice President  
for Clinical Care and Services;

B.A., Holy Cross College;

O.D., The New England College of Optometry;

Ph.D., New York State University

**Kristin Brown**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;

B.A., O.D.; University of California, Berkeley

**Richard M. Calderon**, Associate Professor of Optometry;

B.S., M.S., University of New Mexico;

O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Robert C. Capone**, Associate Professor of Optometry;

B.S., Northeastern University;

O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Nancy B. Carlson**, Professor of Optometry;

B.S., Central Connecticut State College;

O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Joanne Caruso**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;

B.S., Emmanuel College;

O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Anthony A. Cavallerano**, Professor of Optometry;

B.S., Marquette University;

O.D., Massachusetts College of Optometry

**Jerry D. Cavallerano**, Associate Professor of Optometry;

B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Fordham University;

O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Depew M. Chauncey**, Associate Professor of Optometry;

B.S., University of Florida;

M.S., University of South Florida;

Ph.D., University of California, Davis;

O.D., The New England College of Optometry;

Ed.M., Harvard University

**Gary Chu**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., University of Waterloo;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Jinjong Chung**, Assistant Professor of Optometry,  
 B.S., University of Toronto;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Nancy Coletta**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., Providence College;  
 O.D., Pennsylvania College of Optometry;  
 Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

**James Comerford**, Professor of Vision Science;  
 B.S., Loyola University; M.A.,  
 Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Concetta Daurio**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., State University of New York at Stony Brook;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry;  
 M.B.A., Simmons College

**Aurora Denial**, Assistant Professor of Optometry,  
 B.A., Clark University;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Kristine Erickson**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., M.S., M.S., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison

**Taline Farra**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;  
 M.S., O.D., University of Waterloo

**Barry M. Fisch**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., Boston University;  
 B.S., O.D., Massachusetts College of Optometry

**Louis A. Frank**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., O.D., Massachusetts College of Optometry

**Richard M. Frankel**, Associate Professor of Medicine;  
 B.A., Hofstra University;  
 M.S.Ed., Hofstra University;  
 M.D., Tufts University School of Medicine;  
 M.P.H., Columbia University School of Public Health

**Thomas Freddo**, Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., University of Connecticut,  
 O.D., Massachusetts College of Optometry;  
 Ph.D., Boston University

**Matthew J. Garston**, Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., Colby College;  
 O.D., Massachusetts College of Optometry

**Robert B. Gross**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., University of Massachusetts;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Rodney K. Gutner**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., University of Bridgeport;  
 O.D., Massachusetts College of Optometry

**Jane E. Gwiazda**, Associate Professor of Vision Science;  
 B.A., Mount Holyoke College;  
 M.A., Ph.D., Northeastern University

**Maureen M. Hanley**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;  
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**Jennifer Hazelwood**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., Ohio State University;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**David A. Heath**, Professor of Optometry and Vice President/  
 Dean for Academic Affairs;  
 B.A., Ithaca College;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry;  
 Ed.M., Harvard University

**Richard Held**, Professor of Vision Science and Director of Research  
 and Graduate Education,  
 B.A., B.S., Columbia University;  
 M.A., Swarthmore College;  
 Ph.D., Harvard University

**Douglas J. Hoffman**, Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., University of Massachusetts;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Richard J. Jamara**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., University of Massachusetts, Amherst;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Laureen Kirkness**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., Boston University;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

- Terrance Knisely**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., Bowling Green State University;  
 O.D., Illinois College of Optometry;  
 M.S., Colorado State University;  
 Ph.D., University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
- Steven B. Koevary**, Associate Professor of Immunology;  
 B.A., Queens College in the City University of New York;  
 Ph.D., Mount Sinai Graduate School of the City University of New York
- Barry S. Kran**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., State University of New York, Binghamton;  
 O.D., State University of New York, State College of Optometry
- Kathleen L. Krenzer**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., University of Notre Dame;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry;  
 Ph.D., Boston University
- Daniel Kurtz**, Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., Oberlin College;  
 Ph.D., University of Michigan;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry
- Alan Kwok**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S. University of Toronto;  
 O.D., University of Waterloo School of Optometry
- David A. Lampariello**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., University of Bridgeport;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry
- Richard C. Laudon**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., University of Bridgeport;  
 O.D., Massachusetts College of Optometry
- Ralph Levoy**, Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., Villanova University;  
 O.D., Massachusetts College of Optometry
- Alan L. Lewis**, Professor of Physiological Optics and President;  
 B.S., Optometry,  
 O.D., Massachusetts College of Optometry,  
 M.S., Ph.D., The Ohio State University
- Stacy A. Lyons**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., State University of New York;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry
- Paul Marescalchi**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., Bates College;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry



**Glen McCormack**, Professor of Physiological Optics;  
 B.S., O.D., Indiana University;  
 Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

**James Mertz**, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry;  
 Ph.D., North Carolina State University

**Susan Monahan**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., Trinity College;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Bruce D. Moore**, Marcus Professor of Pediatric Studies;  
 B.A., Boston University;  
 O.D., Massachusetts College of Optometry

**Gary Moss**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., Swarthmore College;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry;  
 M.B.A., University of Massachusetts

**Terrance B. Neylon**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Vice  
 President for Administration;  
 B.A., Ed.D., Harvard University

**Debora Nickla**, Assistant Professor of Physiology;  
 B.S., State University of New York, Albany,  
 Ph.D., City University of New York

**Bina Patel**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., O.D., Indiana University

**Walter Potaznick**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Jack E. Richman**, Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science;  
 O.D., Pennsylvania College of Optometry

**Beverly T. Scott**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., University of Pittsburgh;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Clifford Scott**, Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., O.D., Massachusetts College of Optometry;  
 M.P.H., Harvard University

**Gerald Selvin**, Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., Ithaca College;  
 O.D., Massachusetts College of Optometry

**Irwin M. Shwom**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., University of Massachusetts;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**William E. Sleight**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., University of Maine;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Dorothy Bazzinotti Tolls**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., College of the Holy Cross;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Frank Thorn**, Professor of Vision Science;  
 B.S., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute;  
 Ph.D., University of Rochester;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**David Troilo**, Associate Professor of Biophysiology;  
 B.A., State University of New York, Oswego;  
 M.A., The City College of New York;  
 Ph.D., The City University of New York

**Guang-Ji Wang**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 M.D., Wenzhou Medical College;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Ronald K. Watanabe**, Associate Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., University of California, Los Angeles;  
 O.D., Southern California College of Optometry

**Erik Weissberg**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., State University of New York, Albany;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

**Roger Wilson**, Professor of Optometry;  
 B.A., State University of New York, Buffalo;  
 O.D., The New College of Optometry

**Nadia S. Zalatimo**, Assistant Professor of Optometry;  
 B.S., University of Connecticut;  
 O.D., Indiana University School of Optometry

**Mark B. Zorn**, Professor of Biochemistry;  
 B.S., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute;  
 Ph.D., Columbia University;  
 O.D., The New England College of Optometry

#### **Emeritus Faculty**

**Paul W. Lappin**, Professor Emeritus of Physiological Optics;  
 O.D., Massachusetts College of Optometry;  
 M.S., Ph.D., Indiana University

### Adjunct Part-Time Faculty

**Jerome Avorn**, Associate Professor of Medicine; A.B., M.D.  
**Richard Bringham**, Associate Professor of Medicine; B.S.E., M.D.  
**Stephen Byrnes**, Assistant Professor of Optometry; A.B., O.D.  
**Terry Chin**, Assistant Professor of Optometry; B.A., O.D.  
**Claudia Evans**, Assistant Professor of Optometry; B.A., M.A., M.S., O.D.  
**Karen Gladstone**, Assistant Professor of Optometry; B.A., M.A., O.D.  
**Haiyan Gong**, Associate Professor of Optometry; M.D., M.S., Ph.D.  
**Gabriele Goszcz**, Assistant Professor of Optometry; M.S.W., O.D.  
**Susan P. Haesaert**, Associate Professor of Optometry; B.S., M.A., O.D.  
**Ernest Loewenstein**, Associate Professor of Optometry; B.A., Ph.D., O.D.  
**Naser Mahmoud**, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, R.P.H., M.S.  
**Amy Pruszenski**, Assistant Professor of Optometry; B.S., O.D.  
**Stanley Reiser**, Professor of Health Care Policy; A.B., M.D., M.P.A., Ph.D.  
**Stuart Rist**, Assistant Professor of Optics; B.A., M.Ed.  
**Donna Valentini**, Assistant Professor of Optometry, B.S. O.D.  
**Blair Wong**, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Optics, A.B.O.M.  
**Donee Wong**, Assistant Professor of Optometry; B.A., O.D.

### Adjunct Visiting Faculty

**Arthur Neufeld**, Ph.D.  
**Eli Peli**, O.D., M.E.E.  
**John Stoeckle**, B.S., M.D.

# Degree Requirements & Academic Policies

## Degree Requirements

### **Doctor of Optometry Degree (O.D.)**

The Doctor of Optometry is a professional degree and is a prerequisite for optometry licensure in the United States. Award of the degree is made by the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the faculty following the satisfactory completion of the professional curriculum in optometry and fulfillment of all obligations to the College. To qualify for the degree, the student must obtain a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or higher. Further, no student can graduate with an outstanding grade of F, Remedial, or Incomplete on his or her record.

### **Bachelor of Science Degree in Optometry (B.S.) for Doctor of Optometry Degree Candidates**

Students who have not earned a bachelor's degree prior to enrolling in the four-year professional program may receive the Bachelor of Science degree in Optometry. In order to be eligible for this degree, the student must:

1. Hold no prior bachelor's degree.
2. Have successfully completed at least twelve semester hours of Social Science and twelve semester hours of Humanities at the undergraduate level. (Information regarding the categorization of courses may be obtained from the Student Affairs Office.)
3. Have successfully completed two years of study at The New England College of Optometry.
4. Have not yet received the Doctor of Optometry degree.

The student must submit a written request to the Registrar for the Bachelor of Science degree at the beginning of the second year of study. Because a student is not eligible for the B.S. degree after graduation from the College, any deficiencies in the undergraduate course requirements must be completed prior to receipt of the Doctor of Optometry degree.





## **Academic Policies and Procedures**

This section outlines the academic policies of The New England College of Optometry. Students, faculty and administrators are expected to familiarize themselves with the academic, clinical, student ethics, and administrative policies.

The Student Affairs Committee (SAC), composed of faculty members, administrators, and student representatives, is responsible for the implementation of the College's academic policies. The Committee is here to offer support to students and to counsel them.

## **Academic Status Policies and Procedures**

At the end of each term/quarter, the Registrar and the SAC review a student's performance. A student may progress normally or may be placed in one of the following categories.

### **Academic Honors**

A student will have achieved honors with a term/quarterly and cumulative grade point average of 3.500 or above.

### **Academic Warning**

A student will be placed on academic warning when his/her cumulative GPA falls within the range of 2.000 - 2.200. The student will receive a written notice from the Registrar when he/she is placed on academic warning for the first time and at the end of the academic year if the student remains on academic warning.

Any student placed on warning will be required to meet with the Dean of Student Affairs.

### **Resolution of Academic Warning**

Academic warning will be resolved when the student's cumulative GPA is 2.200 or above.

### **Academic Probation**

A student will be placed on academic probation for one or more of the following:

student's cumulative grade point average is below the minimum grade point average of 2.000 required for advancement to the next professional year or graduation,

student's term/quarterly grade point average is 1.600 or below in any one term/quarter,

student has earned two grades of "F" in one term/quarter.

The student will receive a written notice from the Registrar each time he/she meets a requirement to be placed on probation.



The student's transcript will display the term "**Academic Probation**" for each term/quarter that the student is formally placed on academic probation by the action of the SAC or at the end of the academic year. This notation will permanently remain on the student's transcript.

Any student placed on probation may be required to meet with the SAC and will be required to meet with the Dean of Student Affairs. A student in the Accelerated O.D. Program or the Advanced Standing International Program will also be required to meet with his/her program advisor.

### **Clinical Probation**

A student will be placed on clinical probation for one or more of the following:

student has earned a grade of remedial in a clinical course,

student has earned a grade of failure in a clinical course.

The student will receive a written notice from the Registrar each time he/she meets a requirement to be placed on probation.

The student's transcript will display the term "**Clinical Probation**" for each term/quarter that the student is formally placed on clinical probation by the action of the SAC. This notation will permanently remain on the student's transcript.

### **Resolution of Probation**

Academic probation will be resolved when the student's cumulative GPA is 2.000 or above.

Clinical Probation will be resolved if a student receives a grade of pass (P) or higher in his/her next equivalent clinical course.

### **Modified Program Status**

At the direction of the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs, a student's academic or clinical program may be modified.

Modification may take the form of increasing the time allowed to complete the curriculum, the sequence in which courses are taken, and/or by setting a different academic or clinical standard. The modified program will also contain the academic or clinical standards that the student must meet in the modified program.

Modification of academic or clinical programs will be done in consultation with or at the request of the Student Affairs Committee.

### **Inquiry Status**

A student who has an unprofessional conduct complaint pending before the SAC will be classified as an inquiry status student until the complaint is resolved. (Please review the 'Unprofessional Conduct' section that is in the latter part of this catalog.)

### **Academic Standing**

A student is considered to be in good academic standing unless he/she meets any of the criteria for Academic and/or Clinical Dismissal. (Please review the 'Academic and Clinical Dismissal' sections that are in the latter part of this catalog.)

### **Academic Progress**

A student whose expected date of graduation is not more than one year after the date anticipated at the time of matriculation will be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress.

A student is considered in good academic standing unless he/she has been dismissed after exhausting all appeals or has not met the requirements set forth in a modified program.

### **Academic Grading**

#### **Explanation of Grades**

A = 4.00	(Excellent)
B = 3.00	(Good)
C = 2.00	(Fair)
D = 1.00	(Lowest Passing)
F = 0.00	(Failure)
FD = 1.00	(Failed, passed special examination)
F=	(Fail as part of the Pass/Fail system)
P=	(Pass)
I=	(Incomplete)
AU=	(Audit)
W=	(Withdrawal)
EX=	(Exempt)
IP=	(In Progress)

### **Incomplete Grade**

A student who does not complete all course requirements by the end of the term/quarter in which the course was taken may, at the discretion of the course instructor, be given a grade of Incomplete. Grades of Incomplete should be given only when a significant component of the course work has not been completed and should never be used in lieu of an "F" or any other grade.

### **Resolution of an Incomplete Grade**

A student who has a grade of Incomplete is required to make arrangements with the instructor to complete the course requirements within 5 weeks following the term/quarter in which the Incomplete was given. If the grade of Incomplete is not removed within this 5 week period, the grade will automatically



become a grade of "F" unless the Registrar, in consultation with the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs, has approved an extension due to extenuating circumstances.

Following the resolution of an Incomplete, the new course grade will be used in calculating the term/quarterly and cumulative GPA. This may result in the student being placed on academic warning or probation for the term/quarter or in the student being eligible for dismissal.

### **Grade of F (Failure)**

A student who has earned a final grade of "F" must make arrangements for resolving this grade with the instructor within 2 weeks of being notified by the Registrar's Office. The instructor must notify the Registrar in writing regarding the plans for resolution of the "F" grade.



### **Resolution of an "F" Grade**

Grades of "F" may be resolved by repeating the entire course at the next regularly scheduled course offering OR by taking a special examination within 5 weeks following the term/quarter in which the grade of "F" was earned. The course instructor, after consulting with the Department Head, shall have the right to decide which of these options is to be chosen. This decision will be designated on the Grade Sheet to the Registrar. If taking a special examination does not satisfactorily resolve a grade of "F," the student will be required to retake the entire course at the next regularly scheduled course offering. A student who makes up an "F" grade by retaking an examination will have the grade transcribed as "FD," the equivalent of a "D" grade which will be used for GPA calculation.

Academic warning or probation will remain for the term/quarter even though the change from an "F" to "FD" may qualify for the removal of academic warning or probation.

When a student retakes the course in which an "F" grade was earned, both grades will be transcribed on the student's transcript and will be used for GPA calculation.

### **Grade of Audit**

A student may audit a course with the recommendation of the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs and approval of the SAC. A student is required to attend the majority of classes and/or any lab sessions required by the instructor. Attendance must be verified by the course instructor in order for the course to be transcribed.

### **Exemption from Courses**

A student may be exempted from a course only with the approval of the course instructor. If the instructor finds that the student has sufficient educational background and successfully passes a test administered by the instructor, the student may be exempted from the course. If the student is granted an exemption, the course instructor must notify the Registrar and student in writing by the end of the third week of the beginning of the course. The student is required to attend the course until receiving written notification of exemption.

### **Repeat of a Course**

A student may only repeat a course to resolve a grade of "F," when required by the Student Affairs Committee or when placed in a modified program. A student may not elect to repeat a course to improve academic performance and GPA. Both grades will be transcribed on the student's transcript and will be used for the GPA calculation.

### **Withdrawal from Courses**

A student is not normally allowed to withdraw from individual courses. In unusual circumstances, a student who is performing at a "C" or higher level may petition the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs for exception to this policy. The petition must be presented no later than two weeks prior to the final examination. Permission to withdraw from the course will only be given by the Academic Dean after consultation with the instructor of record. If a student withdraws from a course without permission, as evidenced by nonattendance and failure to complete assignments and examinations, a grade of "F" will be transcribed. A student who requests to withdraw from more than one course will be reviewed by the SAC as this constitutes a modified program.

Withdrawal from course(s) after the third week of classes will not result in a tuition adjustment if the student is still attending the college.

## Clinical Grading

This policy applies to all degree programs and all clinical courses involving direct patient care.

### Explanation of Grades

H =	Honors	Outstanding
P =	Pass	Adequate
RM =	Remedial	Marginally Inadequate
F =	Failure	Inadequate
I =	Incomplete	Adequate; requirements not completed
AU =	Audit	
W =	Withdrawal	
NC =	No Credit	No Credit or Grade Given



Clinical grades represent an overall rating of a student's clinical performance as judged by technical skills, knowledge, analytical skills and professionalism. Successful completion of clinical courses is defined in terms of grades of Pass (P) or above. To achieve a grade of pass, a student must meet a minimum of 70% of expected performance levels for the clinical course. A Remedial (RM) grade indicates performance of less than 70% but at least 50% of expected levels. A grade of Fail (F) is rendered when less than 50% of expected performance criteria have been met.

Clinical Instructors must submit written documentation to the Instructor of Record to support a Remedial (RM) or Failure (F) grade.

### Failure Grade

A student who earns a grade of "F" in a clinic course will be required to meet with the SAC for a dismissal hearing.

### Remedial Grade

A student who receives a Remedial grade must receive a Pass or Honors grade in his/her next equivalent clinical course or the Remedial grade will be changed to an "F." If a Pass or Honors

grade is received in his/her next equivalent clinical course, the Remedial grade will be changed to a "P."

If this is the student's first remedial, the course instructor must submit a written remedial program to the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs for approval. Any student receiving a Remedial grade will be referred to the Student Affairs Committee for review and action if necessary. A copy of the approved remedial program must be sent to the SAC and the Registrar.

### **Resolution of a Remedial Grade**

A student who receives a grade of remedial at the end of any clinical term/quarter will be placed on Clinical Probation:

A program of remediation that specifically targets identified deficiencies must be instituted for the following term/quarter for the student,

The student must be provided with both details of the remediation program and time-specific goals, to be achieved for successful completion of the program (including assessment criteria to be applied); a copy of the remediation plan will be placed in the student's file,

The student will be referred to the Director of Academic Support for review of his/her case and specific needs, including tutoring,

A grade of pass (P) or higher at the end of the "remedial" term/quarter will remove a student from clinical probation; the original remedial grade (RM) will be converted to a Pass (P),

A remedial grade converts to failure (F) if the student fails to meet passing criteria for the next consecutive term/quarter; the student is then eligible for dismissal and will be required to meet with the Student Affairs Committee (SAC) for review and determination of his/her status.

Additional clinical courses, may be required when more than one remedial grade is obtained, and when a remedial grade is awarded



either in the final term/quarter of the internal clinical program (extra clinical course must precede progress to the external clinical program), or in the final term/quarter of the external clinical program.

A student accumulating either two consecutive or three non-consecutive remedial grades is eligible for dismissal.

### **Audit Grade**

A clinical course can only be taken for a grade of audit if required as part of a student's degree program or requested by the Instructor of Record upon recommendation by the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs and approved by the SAC. A student is required to meet the same attendance standards as a student taking the course for credit. The above attendance and satisfactory progress must be verified by the instructor of record in order for the course to be transcribed.

### **Incomplete Grade**

A student who does not complete all clinical course requirements by the end of the term/quarter in which the course was taken may, at the discretion of the course instructor, be given a grade of Incomplete. A grade of incomplete should be given only when a significant component of the clinical work has not been completed, and should never be used in lieu of an "F" or any other grade.

### **Resolution of an Incomplete Grade**

A student who receives a grade of incomplete must make arrangements with the instructor to complete the clinical course within five weeks following the term/quarter in which the Incomplete was given. If the incomplete grade is not removed within this five week period, the grade will automatically become a grade of "F" unless the Registrar, in consultation with the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs, has approved an extension due to extenuating circumstances.

### **Repeat of a Course**

A student may only repeat a clinical course to resolve a grade of "F," when required by the Student Affairs Committee or placed in a modified program. A student may not elect to repeat a course. Both grades will be transcribed on the student's transcript.

### **Exemption from Clinical Courses**

There is no exemption from or substitutions for internal or external clinical courses. Students will be assigned only to those rotations that have been previously established by formal affiliation with the College. The Office of External Clinical Programs publishes a list of clinical affiliates annually.

### **Withdrawal from Clinical Courses**

A student is not normally allowed to withdraw from a clinical course. Permission to withdraw from the clinical course will only be given by the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs after consultation with the student's clinical preceptor and the instructor of record for the course. A student may request permission to withdraw from a clinical course by writing to the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs no later than 3 weeks before the last day of a rotation to which the student is currently assigned, or 3 weeks prior to the beginning of the next term/quarter's clinical rotation assignment. If the Academic Dean has approved a student's request for withdrawal from this course, a grade of "W" will be transcribed if applicable.

A student who withdraws from a clinical course will be reviewed by the SAC as this constitutes a modified program. If a student does not attend or fails to complete the clinical course, a grade of "F" will be transcribed.

### **Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation**

The term/quarterly or cumulative GPA is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points by the total number of credit hours attempted during a specific time period. Pass/Fail grades, Clinical grades, incomplete grades, and In Progress grades are not used in the calculation of the GPA.

Courses that are taught over the span of two or three term/quarters and for which only one grade is given are recorded as "IP" (In Progress) for the first or second term/quarter. When the final grade

is received, it is recorded for each term/quarter of the course. Interim grades, which reflect a student's progress in a course listed as "IP," especially "D" or "F", will be used for the evaluation of academic standing and progress.

Quality points are awarded per credit hour as follows:

A = 4.00

B = 3.00

C = 2.00

D = 1.00

F = 0.00

One credit hour is equivalent to:

10 hours of lecture per quarter or term,

20-30 hours of laboratory per quarter or term,

or 20 hours of clinic per quarter or term.

Course load per quarter is defined as:

Full time: usually 16 or more credit hours

Half time: at least 8 but not more than 15 credit hours

Part time: less than 8 credit hours.

A student who attends and completes all required courses offered to his/her class for the academic year will be considered to be full time. These course load designations are used for student classification status only.

### **Requirements for Student Advancement**

A student is required to meet minimum academic standards in order to advance to the next professional year of study.

A student must have at least a 2.000 cumulative GPA,

To enter the final Professional Year, a student must have a 2.000 cumulative GPA, and no grades of Incomplete, Remedial, or Fail in didactic or clinical courses unless placed in a modified program by the SAC.

### **Degree Requirements**

Degrees will be conferred pursuant to the completion of the following requirements:

1. Curriculum Requirements: All didactic and clinical requirements for the degree must have been completed.
2. Academic Requirements: A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.000 with no outstanding grades of Failure, Remedial, or Incomplete is required. (The cumulative GPA is not a rounded number; a cumulative GPA of 1.999 does not qualify a student to graduate.)
3. Professional Conduct Requirement: No student will be allowed to graduate with charges or pending actions.
4. Faculty and Board of Trustees Approval: Conferring of a degree requires formal approval by the Faculty and Board of Trustees.
5. Fiscal Requirements: All fiscal obligations must have been satisfied at least one week prior to the conferring of a degree. These include tuition and fees, clinic expenses, and bookstore and/or library charges.
6. Financial Aid: A student who has received financial aid must have an exit interview with a Financial Aid officer.

### **Academic Dismissal**

A student in an O.D. degree program may be subject to dismissal: following three consecutive term/quarters on probation, when a grade of "F" is earned in a course retaken to resolve a grade of "F," or when the requirements for advancement are not met.

### **Clinical Dismissal**

A student in the O.D. program may be subject to dismissal: following the grade of Fail (F) earned in a clinical course that involves patient care, following two consecutive Remedial (RM) grades earned in clinical courses that involve patient care, when three nonconsecutive Remedial (RM) grades are accumulated in clinical courses that involve patient care.

The student will be required to meet with the Student Affairs Committee for review and determination of his/her status.





### **Dismissal Hearing Policy and Procedure**

When a student meets the criterion for academic or clinical dismissal, he/she will be required to meet with the SAC for a dismissal hearing. The SAC will notify the student in writing of the time and date of his/her hearing. A student has the right to select a faculty member or administrator of The New England College of Optometry as an advisor.

At the hearing, the SAC will consider the student's academic record, clinical record, if applicable, and all pertinent information presented by the student such as:

- circumstances regarding poor academic and/or clinical performance,

- the student's proposal for satisfactorily completing the academic and/or clinical program,

- evaluation by the Counseling Service, requested by the SAC or the student,

- written faculty recommendations and comments when requested by the student.

Following the hearing, the student may be dismissed or classified as a probationary student, either of which will be permanently transcribed onto the student's transcript. The SAC will notify the student in writing.

### **Appeal of Dismissal**

The student may submit a written appeal of his/her dismissal to the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs within five business days after the date of the letter in which the SAC advises the student of his or her status. The Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs will serve as the primary reviewer of appeals of dismissals.

An appeal will only be considered if a student demonstrates that the SAC did not follow the dismissal process, or if the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs finds that new extenuating evidence exists. The Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs will act in an expeditious manner after receipt of a written appeal. If the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs deems that the appeal is justified, he/she may request input from the SAC or others as appropriate before making the final decision.

A student who is appealing a dismissal to the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs will be allowed to attend didactic courses and may be allowed to attend clinical courses. The Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs will inform the student as to what courses he/she may attend.

If the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs does not feel that the appeal is justified, the student will be advised in writing of this finding and may then appeal to the President for final action. A written appeal to the President must be submitted within five business days after the date of the letter in which the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs advises the student that the appeal was denied. Only under very unusual circumstances would the President rescind the decision of the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs.



### **Miscellaneous Processes and Policies Regarding Grading, Absences, Exams, and Make-up Work**

#### ***Submitting Grades***

Final grades are due from the instructor of record on the date specified by the Registrar.

All grades, including Incomplete, In Progress, and Remedial are considered for purposes of determining academic standing and progress.

#### ***Change of Grade Policy***

The instructor of record for each course has final authority for the designation of grades. Once a grade has been reported in writing to the Registrar's Office, the following procedures apply:

Change of grade of "I", "F", or "RM"

The instructor of record must complete a Change of Grade Form and deliver the form directly to the Registrar's Office.

Change of grade due to a clerical error

The instructor of record must complete a Change of Grade Form with a statement indicating the reason for the change for review by the Registrar who may request final approval from the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs.

Change of grade due to calculation error

The instructor of record must complete a Change of Grade Form with a statement indicating the reason for the change for review by the Registrar who may request final approval from the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs.

### *Notification of Grades*

Students will be informed when grade reports are available and where they may be picked up (ordinarily available 3-4 weeks after the term/quarter ends). Grades are given directly to the student only in the form of a grade report or as an unofficial transcript.

Changes in grades will be given to the student through a copy of the Change of Grade Form, or new grade report by the Registrar's Office.

Some instructors post grades which are considered unofficial.

### *Policies on Excused Absence from the College, Laboratory Sessions, or Clinic*

Students are expected to attend all classes and are required to attend all laboratory sessions and clinic. A student with sufficient reason such as an illness, a death in the family, or a personal emergency may request an excused absence from the Office of Academic Affairs.

### *Absence to Attend Professionally Related Activities*

Each year there are a series of professionally related activities that occur outside of the region and are in conflict with the Academic Calendar. Requests to attend an event should be submitted to the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs at least 30 days prior to departure. Those students in external clinic rotations must also receive permission from the clinical preceptor.



A few specific events are:

Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (For a VOSH trip, a list will be gathered and submitted by the VOSH President.)

American Academy of Optometry

American Optometric Student Association

Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology

Since participation requires more than a three-day leave, the following criteria will be applied:

A student must have a GPA of at least 2.200 and may not be on Warning, Probation, and/or inquiry status.

Students will be granted one leave for professional activities per term/quarter. Extraordinary circumstances may warrant an exception. Exceptions will be reviewed on an individual basis but will usually be granted if the student has an official role in the event (e.g. officer, coordinator, etc.) and/or has a GPA above 2.80. The student's role should be described as part of the request.

A student in an external clinic must also receive permission from the clinical preceptor.

Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to attend more than two events in a given term/quarter.

Student participation in professional activities is encouraged by the College. It must also be recognized that the student's priority is to his/her studies and his/her obligation to patient care. If a student is granted an excused absence, the student assumes all responsibility for:

obtaining and completing missed assignments and examinations,

switching laboratory sections with written notification of the switch to relevant instructors,

switching clinic assignments with a classmate to insure coverage for patient care and completion of his/her own clinical requirements. The switch must be submitted in writing to the appropriate clinical preceptor.



#### Absence from the College

A student who will be absent for three or more consecutive days from the College is expected to obtain prior approval from the Office of Academic Affairs.

#### Absence from a Laboratory Session

A student must obtain prior approval from the laboratory instructor, instructor of record, or the appropriate department chair prior to the start of the laboratory session.

#### Absence from the Clinic

Please refer to the Clinic Manual.

#### Absence from External Clinical Rotation

All requests for time off must be submitted in writing at least 30 days prior to the time requested. The request must be sent to both the individual Clinic Director involved and to the Office of External Clinical Programs at the College. Each request requires the approval of both the Clinical Director and the Director or Associate Director of External Clinical Programs.

In an emergency, the student must telephone the clinic and take particular care to speak with the Clinic Director. The student must also contact the College's Office of External Clinical Programs by calling (617) 236-6243 or 1-800-824-5526

#### Absence due to Religious Observance

In general, the College does not observe religious holidays.

Each student, upon notifying his/her instructor of record or clinic preceptor at least two weeks in advance, shall be excused from class to observe a religious holiday of his/her faith. However, a student in an external clinical rotation must submit a written request 30 days in advance as noted in the section on Absence from External Clinical Rotation.

While the student will be held responsible for the material covered in his/her absence, each student shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up any work missed.

No test, quiz, major class event, or major College event will be scheduled on a major religious holiday.

Faculty and administration shall in no way penalize students who are absent from academic or social activities because of religious observances.

### *Missing Midterm Examinations*

Students must contact and obtain prior approval of the instructor of record or the appropriate Department Chair in order to miss a midterm examination.

In case of an emergency such as illness (doctor's note may be needed) or death in the family, the student should contact one of the above or the Office of Academic Affairs before the midterm examination begins.

The student is required to contact the instructor of record to reschedule the midterm examination immediately upon return.

### *Final Examination Policy*

All students are required to attend final examinations except in the case of illness or personal emergency. All attempts should be made to inform the Office of Academic Affairs prior to the start of the examination in the case of illness or personal emergency. A medical excuse must be submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs in the case of illness.

The student is required to contact the instructor of record to reschedule the final examination immediately upon return if his/her absence was approved by the Office of Academic Affairs.

In the case of absences approved, the instructor of record will award an Incomplete grade upon written notification from the Office of Academic Affairs.

### *Course Offerings*

The College accepts no obligation to re-offer courses to any student during the same academic year.

## **Leave of Absence and Readmission**

A student in good academic standing may request a leave of absence from the College. This request must be in writing and must be submitted to the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs at least 30 days in advance of the anticipated leave date. This dateline requirement will be waived only under extraordinary circumstances.

The Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs will inform the student in writing of the decision and any terms relative to returning to the College. The Academic Dean will also notify in writing the appropriate offices.

Please note the following:

The decision to grant the leave will be a function of consultation between the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs and the Director of External Clinical Programs, if the student requesting a leave of absence is a final-year student.

A leave of absence may not be granted before all tuition and fees are paid in full, and the student has met with the Financial Aid Office to discuss the effect of the leave upon financial aid arrangements.

A leave of absence is usually not extended beyond one year. Ordinarily, a student is granted only one leave of absence.

Any student who returns to the College after a leave of absence may be required to take additional course work due to curriculum changes. Students taking a leave of absence do so with the understanding that course sequencing may change during the leave of absence. Students may be required to pass a clinical proficiency examination prior to assignment to clinical patient care. Date of reentry will be determined by the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs.

## ***Withdrawal and Readmission***

A student may withdraw from the College by informing the Registrar in writing. (This should be done at least two weeks before Final Exams begin or three weeks before the end of a clinical rotation.)

A student must have an exit interview with the Financial Aid Office if he/she has received financial aid.

A student who has withdrawn must petition the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs for readmission to the program. The Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs will determine the reentry level and date of reentry. The Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs may consult the SAC and others as necessary. The original expected graduation date may be revised as appropriate.

Withdrawal from the College in good academic standing does not in itself guarantee readmission.

A student who withdraws from the College during the first year of the four-year O.D. program must apply to the Admissions Committee for readmission but will not be readmitted without the recommendation of the SAC.

A student must have met all prior fiscal obligations to the College before petitioning or applying for readmission.



### **Unprofessional Conduct**

The College reserves the right to terminate the enrollment of any student at any time for whatever the faculty and administration at The New England College of Optometry consider to be good and sufficient reason. Unprofessional conduct may include but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, unexcused absences from assignments, falsifying clinical records, abusive behavior, organizing or participating in harassment or hazing, and theft or destruction of College's, Clinic's or College member's property, as well as other conduct unbecoming a student at the College.

A faculty member or other member of the College community who considers a student's conduct to be unprofessional must submit a written complaint after consultation with the appropriate Dean or supervisor to the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee with a copy to the Registrar. Upon receipt of the written complaint, the



Registrar will notify the student that a complaint has been received and that the student has been placed on inquiry status, pending an investigation of the complaint by the Student Affairs Committee. The student will also be informed that he or she shall have the right to present evidence and testimony and may also select a faculty member or administrator of The New England College of Optometry as an advisor to aid him/her in answering the complaint. The student will be notified by the Chair of the SAC of the date, time, and place of the investigative hearing as well as be provided with information regarding the unprofessional conduct charge.

An investigative subcommittee usually consisting of the Chair of the SAC, a student member of the SAC, and one faculty member of the SAC will be formed. The subcommittee will meet separately with the student, the individual making the charge, and any other individual with information pertinent to the complaint. The subcommittee will attempt to collect within reason, all evidence and testimony relevant to the charge before making its recommendation to the SAC. Penalties are determined on an individual basis and include but are not limited to dismissal, suspension, disciplinary probation, and additional academic assignments. The Chair of the SAC will notify the student in writing of the results of the inquiry and actions to be taken.

### ***Appeal of SAC Decision***

The student may submit a written appeal of the decision of the SAC to the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs within five business days after the date of the letter in which the SAC advises the student of their decision. An appeal will only be considered if a student demonstrates that the SAC did not follow the investigative hearing process.

The Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs will act in an expeditious manner after receipt of a written appeal. The Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs may request input from the SAC before making the final decision.

A student who is appealing a dismissal to the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs will be allowed to attend didactic courses and may be allowed to attend clinical courses. The Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs will inform the student as to what courses he/she may attend.

If the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs does not find that the appeal is justified, the student will be advised in writing of this finding and may then appeal to the President for final action. A written appeal to the President must be submitted within five business days after the date of the letter in which the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs advises the student that the appeal was denied. Only under unusual circumstances would the President rescind the decision of the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs. A student who is appealing to the President is not allowed to attend didactic or clinical courses.

## Admission to the College



The New England College of Optometry seeks to admit students who are firmly committed to improving the human condition through the profession and practice of optometry. Admission is based upon evaluation of both academic and non-academic qualifications. While we look for students with science aptitude, we recognize that excellent academic performance in other subject areas is also an important indication of success in the academic program.

The College examines the following to determine a candidate's status:

- undergraduate grade point average and course content*
- recommendations by pre-health advisory Committee or other faculty*
- Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) scores*
- competitiveness of undergraduate schools attended*
- ability to communicate and articulate*
- personality and demeanor*
- extracurricular activities*
- Scholastic Aptitude Test scores*

Candidates must also demonstrate:

- commitment to learning*
- high sense of social concern and ethics*
- respect for human dignity*
- strong motivation to become an optometrist*
- understanding of the social obligations of health professionals*
- leadership potential*

Along with academic performance, these qualities are evaluated through recommendations, essays, and a required admissions interview. Those individuals who have the highest potential for academic success in the optometric curriculum and those who can best represent the College and the profession as practicing optometrists are offered admission.

**Undergraduate Preparation**

Applicants to the four-year Doctor of Optometry Degree Program must have completed at least three years of undergraduate preparation. Within this period of study, the student should have completed the following courses:

	Semester(s)	Quarter(s)
Chemistry (with lab)	2	3
Organic Chemistry (with lab)	1	2
Biology (with lab)	2	3
Microbiology	1	2
Mathematics (including Calculus)	2	3
Physics (with lab)	2	3
English	2	3
Psychology	1	2
Humanities (other)	4	6
Social Sciences (other)	4	6

One semester or two quarters of statistics is strongly recommended.

Since most students admitted to the College have earned a bachelors degree, it is rare for students to be accepted without a B.A. or B.S. degree. Students who have not earned a bachelors degree may be granted the Bachelor of Science degree by the College before they are awarded an O.D. degree, provided they have completed twelve semester hours of humanities, twelve semester hours of social sciences, and have met other requirements set forth by the College.

Eligible veterans are encouraged to apply for admission. The New England College of Optometry is approved for study under Public Law 348. Veterans covered by this law are expected to pay all charges in the same manner as non-veterans.



## The Admissions Process



The College utilizes a rolling admissions process, in that applications are considered continuously throughout the admissions period. Once an application is completed and has been reviewed by the Admissions Committee, the applicant will be either invited for an interview or advised of his or her failure to meet the admissions standards. In unusual circumstances, and with prior approval of the Dean of Students and the Director of Admissions, a personal interview can be arranged at an off-campus site. No application will be considered complete, and no admissions decision will be made, without a personal interview.

Within two or three weeks following the interview, candidates will be informed of the Admissions Committee decision. Upon acceptance, a \$500 nonrefundable deposit will be required to secure a seat in the entering class.

An applicant accepted for admission must resolve all academic deficiencies prior to the year of entry. The College reserves the right to withdraw any acceptance offered if an incoming student has not satisfactorily completed the prerequisite courses.

## The Complete Application

Applications are accepted starting August 1 and ending March 31.

The following credentials constitute a complete application file:

1. A completed application form, accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$75 payable to the College. Only personal checks drawn on United States banks, money orders, or travelers or cashier's checks will be accepted.
2. Complete official transcripts from each high school and college attended. A final transcript will be required of all applicants after admission to the program in order to verify completion of academic requirements.

3. Official results of the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT). Contact the Optometry Admissions Testing Program, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611 or call (312) 440-2693.

4. Official results of all other standardized tests, such as SAT, ACT, CEEB, Achievement, GRE, Advanced Placement Tests, etc. These are usually included in high school or college transcripts but, if lacking, must be forwarded to the College. For applicants whose pre-optometry education was not in English, an official transcript of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required. The Test of Spoken English (TSE) may also be required.

5. A professional recommendation from the Pre-health Advisory Committee. This is a composite evaluation from faculty at an undergraduate college or university. If a school does not have such a committee, at least two letters of recommendation from faculty members may be substituted. Personal recommendations are not required, but may be submitted.

All material submitted becomes the property of the College. Confidentiality will be respected. Under special circumstances, the Admissions Committee may waive submission of some credentials listed above.

### **Additional Admissions Policies for the Advanced Standing International Program for Graduates of Foreign Optometry Schools.**

Applicants to the Advanced Standing International Program must have successfully completed study at a recognized non-U.S. optometry school. The optometry program must be at least three years in length. In addition, at least two years of postgraduate experience in clinical practice, research, or teaching are needed.

For applicants who have attended institutions where instruction was not in English, the TOEFL examination (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is required to demonstrate a working knowledge of English. A minimum score of 213 is expected. The Test of Spoken English (TSE) may also be required.

Applicants from countries with which the College has had no previous experience will be expected to submit their transcripts and course work to the World Education Service for course and grade evaluation.

The Optometric Practice Experience Questionnaires must be completed by applicants, including for all positions held since graduation from their programs. A curriculum vitae is also required with the application.

### **Additional Admissions Policies for the Accelerated Doctor or Optometry Program**

Applicants to the Accelerated Doctor of Optometry Program must hold an earned doctorate in one of the biological, behavioral, or physical sciences or a doctoral-level health profession degree.

### **Reapplicants**

The College retains all application files for one year. Should an unsuccessful candidate wish to reapply, a reapplication form must be submitted. There is a \$75 reapplication fee. All transcripts and recommendations submitted in the prior year can be used for the reapplication. The reapplicant must submit official transcripts for college courses taken since the last application.

### **Transfer Students**

When openings permit, the College will review applications for advanced standing from students who are currently enrolled in other accredited schools or colleges of optometry.

Official acknowledgment of transfer and certification of good academic standing are required from the dean of the optometry school from which the applicant seeks to transfer.

### **Early Admissions and Joint B.S./O.D. Degree Programs**

The New England College of Optometry has affiliations with undergraduate institutions in New England for the awarding of a joint Bachelor of Science degree. This program is offered in conjunction with Assumption College in Worcester, MA, University of Hartford, Hartford, CT, Providence College, Providence, RI, and Wheaton College, Norton, MA.



# Tuition Fees and Financial Aid

## Tuition



For the 2001-2002 academic year, the Board of Trustees of The New England College of Optometry has set the annual tuition rate at \$23,964. A student enrolled less than full-time will be charged at a per credit rate, then in effect. (Tuition and fees are subject to change without notice).

In the Doctor of Optometry Degree Program the annual tuition is payable in equal installments coinciding with the start of each academic term. Students on the semester system will be billed in the fall and spring, while those on the quarter system will pay their tuition in three installments in the fall, winter, and spring. Fourth year students are billed at the beginning of the four required clinical rotations. The rates are referred to as the didactic and clinical rates respectively.

In the Accelerated Doctor of Optometry Degree Program, tuition will be charged at the didactic rate for the first five quarters and at the clinical rate for the final four quarters.

In the Advanced Standing International Program, tuition will be charged at the didactic rate for the first four quarters and at the clinical rate for the final four quarters.

Beginning with the fall 2001 term, a student who repeats a course and is on a less than full-time basis, or whose program is extended for additional academic periods, will be subject to normal tuition and fee charges.

## Fees and Expenses

Fees include a nonrefundable application fee of \$75, an annual student activity fee of \$180, a \$300 laboratory fee for first year students in all programs and a \$100 clinic fee for third year students. Students should anticipate additional expenses of \$5,000 for textbooks, laboratory manuals, and equipment.



**Payment Policy**

All tuition and fees are due and payable on or before the first day of classes of each term, except for first-year students, which are due by August 1 of the year of entry. Students may not register or attend classes if tuition and fees are not paid in full or if appropriate arrangements have not been made with the Chief Financial Officer at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the term. The College does not accept credit cards for payment of tuition and fees.

**Tuition Refund Policy**

Should a student start a term and not complete it due to withdrawal, leave of absence, or dismissal, tuition is refundable as follows:

Withdrawal date	Percentage of Tuition & Fees Refunded
Prior to the 1 <sup>st</sup> day of the academic period	100%
During the 1 <sup>st</sup> week	90%
During the 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> weeks	50%
During the 4 <sup>th</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> weeks	25%
After 6 weeks	0%

When calculating refunds, a reasonable administrative fee may be charged. This fee shall be the lesser of 5% of charges assessed the student or \$100.

**Return of Federal Title IV Funds**

For students receiving federal assistance, the Financial Aid Office will recalculate federal financial aid (Direct Stafford, Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study) eligibility for students who withdraw, take a leave of absence, or are dismissed prior to completing 60% of an academic term. No adjustment to funds or charges will be made after this point in a term.

The term "withdraw" is defined as the actual date the student began the College's withdrawal process as outlined in the Degree Requirements and Academic Policies sections of this Catalog, the student's last day of recorded attendance, or the midpoint of the new term for a student who leaves without notifying the College. The procedure for taking a leave of absence is also described in this Catalog. For financial aid eligibility purposes, however, a leave will constitute a withdrawal; federal guidelines stipulate that a leave may be no longer than 180 days, but due to the sequencing of courses, a leave of absence is usually one year.

Recalculation is based on the percent of earned financial aid. "Percent earned" is equal to the number of days completed up to the withdrawal date divided by the total number of days in the term.

Federal financial aid is returned to the federal government based on the percent of unearned aid using the formula below:

$$\text{Aid to be returned} = (100\% - \text{the percent earned}) \times (\text{amount of aid disbursed toward institutional charges})$$

Funds are returned to the federal Title IV aid program in the following order: Unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan, Subsidized Direct Stafford Loan, Perkins Loans. If the student receives other funds that require adjustment, according to the policy described above, those funds will be returned in the following order: Health Professions Student Loan, Loan for Disadvantaged Students, Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students.

When aid is returned the student may owe a balance to the College. The student must contact the Business Office to make arrangements to pay the balance.

When calculating refunds, a reasonable administrative fee may be charged. This fee shall be the lesser of 5% of charges assessed the student or \$100.

## Financial Aid



The financing of an optometric education can be complex. Educational programs in the health professions are expensive but represent an investment in a financially secure future career. Tuition for students in the College's four-year program is \$23,964 in 2001-02; living expenses, books, and equipment bring the annual cost of education to approximately \$41,474. Because this level of expense usually exceeds the resources available, students often rely on student loans, Federal Work-Study, and other financial aid programs. It is important that the student understands the financial commitment before beginning graduate/professional education.

The College awards financial aid funds from a variety of sources to assist students in meeting their financial obligations. The process for applying for these funds begins when a financial aid packet containing the Financial Aid Handbook and all forms necessary to apply for financial aid are mailed starting in January to all applicants accepted into the entering class. Parents' financial information is required of all applicants applying for institutional aid and health profession loans. The deadline for all financial aid applications is April 1, and a new financial aid application is required each academic year.

Eligibility for federal student financial aid is primarily determined by financial need. Individual need is defined as the difference between the standard student budget calculated by the College and available resources as measured by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Additionally, one must be a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States; enrolled or accepted for full-time study; and making satisfactory academic progress. Students also must have registered for the draft if required to do so and must not owe a refund or be in default on any financial aid previously received.

Federal and state financial aid programs change frequently. The most up-to-date information may be obtained from the College's Financial Aid Office.



The following is a listing of potential sources of financial aid for students attending The New England College of Optometry.

### **Federal Programs**

The **Subsidized Federal Direct Loan Program** provides student funding of up to \$8,500 per year (\$65,500 cumulative total) based upon financial need. Repayment begins six months after program completion, and the repayment period is between ten and thirty years. The interest rate is variable, changing July 1st each year, but is capped at 8.25%.

The **Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan Program** provides loans up to \$30,000 for a nine-month academic year, and up to \$36,667 for a 12-month academic year. The borrower is not required to demonstrate financial need. Repayment begins six months after program completion, and the repayment period is between ten and thirty years. The interest (variable, but capped at 8.25%) on this loan can be deferred until after graduation.

### **Federal Perkins Loans**

The Federal Perkins Loan Program provides funding for students based upon exceptional financial need. The amount varies according to available funding and the student's need. Interest is 5%, and repayment begins nine months after program completion with a repayment period of ten years.

### **Health Professions Student Loan Program (HPSL)**

The Health Professions Student Loan Program provides funding for students based upon exceptional financial need. Parent information must be provided for consideration for this loan. The amount varies according to available funding and the student's need. Repayment begins twelve months after program completion, and the repayment period is ten years. The interest rate is 5%.

The **Loan for Disadvantaged Students (LDS)** program provides long-term, low-interest (5%) loans to eligible students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Parent information must be provided for consideration for this loan program. Repayment begins twelve months after program completion with a repayment period of ten years.



### **Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students**

Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students provides scholarship assistance to eligible students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are enrolled full-time in a health professions school. Parent information must be provided for consideration for this scholarship program.

### **Federal Work-Study Program (FWS)**

The Federal Work-Study Program provides students with financial need the opportunity to earn supplemental income through part-time work at the College and a number of its external clinics. Wages range from \$9.00 to \$12.00 per hour.

### **College Loan Programs**

#### **Fund for Education Loans**

The Fund for Education Loan program is for economically disadvantaged or minority students who show exceptional financial need. Parent information must be provided for consideration for this loan program. Repayment begins twelve months after program completion with a repayment period of five years.

#### **Saval Loan**

The Saval Loan offers a limited number of low-interest, long-term, deferred loans to Canadian students. Repayment begins twelve months after departure from the College. The student has five years to repay both principal and interest.

### **Private Supplemental Loans**

#### **Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority Loan (MEFA)**

The purpose of the MEFA loan is to provide a non-need based loan at a fixed interest rate: (APR) 7.32 - 7.60% in 2002. Students, including Canadians with a Canadian co-signer, may borrow up to the cost of their education. Applicants must be credit worthy. Students are eligible to apply for a MEFA loan after they have successfully completed the first semester of their first year.

### **CanHELP Loan**

The CanHELP loan is available to Canadian students only. Students may apply on their own or with a Canadian co-signer. The minimum loan amount per academic period is \$1,000 (U.S.) with a maximum of \$15,000 (U.S.) on the student's signature or up to the cost of attendance with a credit-worthy co-signer. Repayment begins six months after program completion, and the total repayment period cannot exceed twenty-five years.

### **Scholarships**

The Financial Aid Office assists in the application process for the following scholarships:

**Trustee Scholarship** provides scholarship assistance to minority and economically disadvantaged students in the four-year program. The amount varies and is awarded to a limited number of exceptionally needy students in the four-year program. Parent information must be provided for consideration for this scholarship.

**Alumni Association Scholarship** provides eight awards of \$1,000 each to students in good academic standing and with demonstrated financial need.

**John Asarkof Scholarship** awards a \$750 scholarship to a fourth-year student who has demonstrated outstanding performance in vision rehabilitation.

**William C. Barrett Memorial Scholarship for Clinical Excellence** provides a \$1,000 award to a fourth-year student with outstanding clinical skills and documented financial need. Priority is given to students meeting these criteria who served in clinical rotations at the Omni Centers in Atlanta, Georgia and Phoenix, Arizona. The scholarship award will be used to reduce the outstanding principal on the recipient's most costly student loan.

**Beider Moral Obligation Scholarship** provides six to twelve awards of \$2,500 each. The recipient must be a student in the third or fourth year; must have a cumulative grade point average of over 3.60; must be financially needy; and must be an earnest and faithful student.

**Dr. John Carter Scholarship** provides a \$1,000 award to a third-year student who has achieved a grade of "A" in all pharmacology coursework and demonstrated academic leadership and exemplary character.

**Class of '69 Scholarship** provides \$1,000 to a fourth-year student with demonstrated financial need and outstanding clinical performance.

**Stacy Rosemore Friedman Endowed Scholarship Award** is awarded to a student with a minimum 3.0 GPA. The recipient is determined by the Financial Aid Committee in consultation with the Rosemore family.

**Emanuel S. Glasser Scholarship** provides a \$1,000 award to a student who shows demonstrated financial need; is in good academic standing; and exhibits extraordinary interest and enthusiasm in both academics and clinic practice, as well as a demonstrable dedication to The New England College of Optometry.

**Israel and Sylvia Grossman Scholarship** awards \$1,500 to a student in the second, third, or fourth year who has demonstrated academic achievement, financial need, and the potential for becoming an active and concerned member of the alumni body of the College and the optometric profession.

**The Otto Hochstadt Scholarship** provides a \$2,000 award to a first-year student with a remarkable GPA in the Bio-Science curriculum who shows financial need and is considered industrious.

**The Dr. Hyman R. Kamens Scholarship** awards a \$500 scholarship to a fourth-year student who has demonstrated academic achievement, financial need, and the potential to contribute to the optometric profession.

**The Klein Family Scholarship** is awarded to a first year student with at least a 3.25 GPA and an OAT score of 300+. Must demonstrate financial need.

**Monthe N. Kofos Scholarship** awards a \$1,500 scholarship to a student in the third or fourth year who has demonstrated academic achievement, financial need, and the potential to contribute to the optometric profession.

**Jean M. Lank Memorial Scholarship Fund** awards \$1,000 to a student who is a nurse (RN or LPN) or an adult seeking a career change. Preference will be given to an entering first-year student.

**Dr. Joseph J. Levitan Prize** will be awarded to a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in the doctor/patient relationship. Academic performance is not considered, but candidates must be in good academic standing with acceptable grades.

**Foster Namias Scholarship** awards \$1,500 to a student who shows financial need and is in the top 5% of the second or third-year class.

**Rose and Warren Guilford/Dr. Arnelda Levine and Dr. Janet Mechanic O.D.1 Award** is awarded to a first year student with a GPA of 3.0 or greater (on a 4.0 scale), and an OAT score of 300 or more. Preference given to female students.

**NECO Scholarships** award two \$2500 scholarships to New England residents who demonstrate financial need and who are in good academic standing.

**NECO Leadership Award** will be offered to a third year student who is a New England resident who shows outstanding leadership qualities and potential for continued leadership development as evidenced by their participation in optometric activities.

**Harry and Sara Pildes Scholarship** awards \$1,500 to a student in the first year of the four-year program who has demonstrated academic achievement, financial need, and the potential for becoming an active and concerned member of the alumni body of the College and the optometric profession.



**Robert A. Titlebaum, O.D. Clinical Proficiency Award** is awarded to a student who has demonstrated excellence in the doctor/patient relationship. Candidates must be in good academic standing.

**Vision Service Plan (VSP) Scholarship** awards two \$2,000 scholarships to students in the fourth year with a grade point average in the top half of the class who have a commitment to enter independent practice.

### **Externally Determined Scholarships**

**Alberta Association of Optometrists Scholarship Award** awards up to three \$500 scholarships to any Alberta resident who is enrolled in an American school of optometry.

**American Foundation for Vision Awareness (Michigan Affiliate)** awards \$500 to \$1,000 to a resident of the state of Michigan in the third-year class who has at least a B average and demonstrates financial need.

**American Foundation for Vision Awareness (Minnesota Affiliate)** provides two \$1,000 awards to residents of Minnesota who are entering their first year of professional study at any of the colleges of optometry. The applicant must be in the upper one-third of his/her class.

**American Foundation for Vision Awareness (Nebraska Affiliate)** awards \$1,000 to a Nebraska resident who will be in the second, third, or fourth-year class in the fall quarter.

**American Foundation for Vision Awareness (Washington Affiliate)** awards at least \$500 to a student who is a resident of the state of Washington, accepted or enrolled in a school of optometry, and does not have a Washington state optometrist as an immediate family member.

**Beta Sigma Kappa Research Grant Program** awards a maximum of \$1,000 for research for any pre-optometry or optometry student. Students must submit an application. It is not necessary to be a Beta Sigma Kappa member to apply for or receive this grant.

**Brazelton Memorial Scholarship**, sponsored by the AAO. Awards a plaque and \$500. Students must submit a paper on low vision based on selected topics and criteria.

**CIBA Vision/AOSA Future Leadership Essay Award** provides a \$1,000 grant to each winner at each optometry school, with an additional \$1,000 awarded to the national winner. Students must complete an essay based on the chosen topics and register to attend the AOSA conference.

**George Comstock Scholarship**, sponsored by the Connecticut Optometric Society, provides awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,500, depending on the number of applicants. The applicant must be a Connecticut resident enrolled in an optometry school, with good character, scholastic achievement, and financial need.

**Richard C. Dexter Scholarship**, sponsored by the New Hampshire Optometric Association, provides an award up to \$1,000 to an upperclassman. The applicant must be a New Hampshire resident who has an interest in returning to New Hampshire to practice and must be a full-time student with demonstrated financial need.

**Dr. Seymour Galina Grant** provides \$2,550 to a third-year student who is a member in good standing of the AOSA. The applicant must submit a paper; the best paper from the College will be entered in the national AOA competition.

**John Gyles Education Fund** provides up to \$3,000 in financial assistance to Canadian and US Citizens. Students must have a GPA of 2.7 or higher and show academic ability and financial need.

**Heart of America Contact Lens Society** provides grants of up to \$7,000 to a currently enrolled optometry student whose permanent residence is in one of the following states: Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, or Arkansas.

**Dr. Dorothy Weitzner Kornblut Scholarship**, sponsored by the Bridgeport Area Foundation, Inc., assisted by the Connecticut Optometric Society, provides one or more awards of \$500 to \$1,500 to female optometry students based on character, scholarship, and financial need. Preference is given to a resident of Fairfield County, State of Connecticut, and New England (in that order).

**LensCrafters** provides ten \$1,000 awards nationwide to enrolled optometry students who are employed by LensCrafters and/or any optometrist affiliated with LensCrafters.

**Manitoba Association of Optometrists/A.H. Basman, OD Scholarship**, awards four scholarships of \$500 each are awarded. Open to any Manitoba resident attending any AOA accredited school of optometry.

**Massachusetts Society of Optometrists** provides two awards of \$1,000 to students who are residents of Massachusetts, who demonstrate achievement in the study of optometry and show financial need.

**Maryland Senatorial Scholarship** provides up to \$2,000 to a Maryland resident who is making satisfactory progress while enrolled in a graduate program.

**Michigan Optometric Association Scholarship - Student of the Year Award** granted to a student who is a Michigan resident attending optometry school and entering his or her fourth year the following fall. The recipient receives \$100 and a plaque.

**Dr. Leslie Mintz Scholarship Award**, sponsored by the New Jersey Optometric Association, provides awards of \$1,000 to New Jersey residents who are full-time optometry students with demonstrated financial need.

**Julius Neumeuller Award in Optics**, sponsored by the AAO. Awards a plaque and \$500 and the winning paper will be published in the AAO journal. Open to all optometry students. Students must submit a paper based on one of the selected topics.

**Optometric Society of Greater Kansas City, Inc.** provides one award of \$500 for optometric students from the Greater Kansas City Area. The award is based on GPA and is open to all second, third, and fourth-year students.

**Petry-Lomb Scholarship**, sponsored by the Rochester (New York) Optometric Society and its Auxiliary, provides a \$1,000 scholarship to a New York state resident who is a student in good academic standing in an accredited optometry school. Preference is given to students from Monroe, Wayne, Livingston, Genesee, Ontario, and Orleans Counties.

**Hilda L. Rand Fund**, sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary of the Maine Optometric Association, provides two \$1,000 scholarships to a Maine resident with good character, scholastic achievement, and financial need.

**Vincent Salierno Scholarship**, sponsored by the AOF. Provides a \$1,500 renewable scholarship to any first-year student. Second, third and fourth-year students are eligible to apply if they have a 3.0 average for all coursework taken thus far in optometry school. The student must show extraordinary financial need and would be otherwise hard-pressed or incapable of meeting the financial requirements of optometry school. Each school selects a recipient and a national winner is selected.

**Student Leadership Award**, sponsored by the AOA. A \$1,000 award is applied to the student's fourth-year tuition. The applicant must be a third-year student member in good academic standing in the AOSA and the AOA. The student must also be in good academic standing. The student must submit a one-page curriculum vita and a paper based on a selected topic. The recipient is selected by the Dean of Student Affairs Office.

**Varilux Student Grant**, based upon a submitted case report, this \$500 award is given to a third or fourth-year optometry student in the United States. The school winner will then be entered into the national competition for an award of \$1,000.



# Student Affairs & Activities

## Student Services



The Office of Student Affairs consists of the office of the Dean of Student Affairs, Admissions, Academic Support, Financial Aid, Registrar, and Student Life. The Office of Student Affairs assists students through a variety of services and programs.

### **Academic Support Tutorial Services**

The College provides a peer tutoring system available to all students. The goal of the program is to provide students with the opportunity to work with successful upperclass students to improve didactic and/or clinical skills. These goals are accomplished by individual tutoring, small group, or large group sessions. Clinical tutoring is usually provided by residents and junior faculty.

### ***Counseling Services***

The goal of the Counseling Service is to help students cope with the many stresses of acquiring a professional education. This goal is accomplished in two ways: direct services to students (and their family members if requested) and advice to the administration and faculty on ways to improve the emotional climate at the College, thereby preventing individual student problems.

The Counseling Service provides:

*24-hour-a-day, on-call emergency service*

*information and referral services to students and their family members,*

*diagnostic and counseling services,*

*consultation and linkage services* to practitioners serving individual students. (When a student is receiving care, the Counseling Service can play a supportive role in assisting the student in his/her academic program.)

### **Learning Strategies**

Individual and group sessions may be offered to assist students in making effective and efficient use of study time. The service offers strategies for note-taking, reading retention, test preparation, and identification of learning styles.

### **Peer Advising Program**

Each first-year student in the four-year program is assigned a second-year student as a Peer Advisor. The role of the Peer Advisor is to help the first-year student adjust to his/her new life as a College student. Peer Advisors and Advisees discuss issues such as equipment purchases, living in Boston, and approaches to course work.

### **Admissions**

The Office of Admissions provides information to prospective students about the College and coordinates the selection process. Please refer to the Admissions section of this catalog.

### **Financial Aid**

The Office of Financial Aid assists students in funding their education. Please refer to the Financial Aid section of the catalog or the Financial Aid Handbook on our website at [www.ne-optometry.edu](http://www.ne-optometry.edu).

### **Registrar**

The Office of the Registrar maintains students' records, course registrations, grades, and biographical information; provides various services including transcripts, verifications of student status, certifications of graduation, course schedules, loan deferments, etc.; ensures compliance of immunization requirements; and takes care of visa information.

### **Student Life**

The Office of Student Life works to enhance the student's educational experience. The main focus of the office is on housing, health insurance, job placement and commencement. Some of the major annual events coordinated by the office are the housing clinic, the student/faculty formal called the "Eyeball," the annual commencement celebration dinner, as well as additional social and educational events intended to enrich the student's life.

## Student Activities



### Student Council

The Student Council is organized to govern the internal affairs of the College's student body. The Council consists of twenty-three voting members: four officers, five representatives from each class in the four-year program, and one representative each from the students in the Accelerated and Advanced Standing programs. The College's representative to the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) is also a voting member of the Student Council. Council meetings are open to the entire student body.

There are two main areas of responsibility for the Student Council. The first is to process, manage, and allocate student activity fees. Use of these funds includes the payment of AOSA dues; sponsorship of various social activities and clubs, including picnics, parties, cruises, hockey games; and funding of the annual dinner dance, the Eyeball. Funding is also provided for the annual yearbook, AOSA activities and trips, and Volunteer Optometrists in Service to Humanity (VOSH) expeditions.

The second area of responsibility is to promote mutual understanding and respect among students, faculty, and administration and to act as a liaison between these groups. The President of the Student Council is a voting member on the Board of Trustees and serves as a member on the Executive Council of the Alumni Association.

### The American Optometric Student Association (AOSA)

Every student becomes a member of the AOSA when his or her student activity fee is paid. AOSA members receive Foresight (AOSA's newsletter), and other benefits throughout their years at the College. AOSA members provide input into a variety of organizations, including the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO), Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), and various sections of the American Optometric Association (AOA). Local AOSA activities at the College may include lunchtime seminars, special speakers and films, and panel discussions on optometric issues. In addition, the AOSA



holds a national congress every year at various sites throughout North America. These congresses provide educational classes and an opportunity to meet fellow students from other schools and colleges of optometry.

### **National Optometric Student Association**

NOSA is the student branch of the National Optometric Association (NOA), a professional association of predominantly minority optometrists. NOA's primary objective is the delivery of vision/health care to minority communities. NOA actively recruits minority students to attend schools and colleges of optometry.

Only a small percentage of practicing optometrist are minority. Vision-related problems among the poor and minority population are eight times higher than in the rest of the population. NOA addresses this issue, and since its founding in 1969, the number of minority optometrists has nearly tripled.

### **Student Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity (SVOSH)**

SVOSH is the student chapter of VOSH International which provides eye and vision care to people who cannot afford care or for whom it is otherwise unavailable. Students volunteer to accompany VOSH missions to underserved populations in countries such as Mexico, Nicaragua, and Honduras. Students also participate by collecting, sorting and classifying donated eyeglasses which are dispensed to needy patients during VOSH missions.

### **Yearbook**

Published by students, *Reflections*, the yearbook, is distributed prior to graduation. It provides students an account of their time at the College.

### **Additional Information**

Please visit our web site [www.ne-optometry.edu](http://www.ne-optometry.edu) to view additional information about Student Services and College Policies. You may click on *Prospective Student*, then *Student Services*, then *Student Services Home*, then *Student Handbook*.



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For more information please call  
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